



## From Our President

It's been a wet and often cold winter but we're back in full swing with our Chapter's activities. We began our 2010 monthly meetings with Betsy Farris' gifted photographs of the sights at last October's Symposium focused on the Rolling Plains. I didn't realize how much my own eyes had missed until I saw Betsy's photos.

This month we follow with Carol Feldman's presentation on landscaping with native plants. I've been looking forward all winter to hearing Carol - a talented, thoughtful landscaper and the immediate past President of the NPSOT. I'll take all of the ideas and practical help she can give me.

Next month Cynthia Maguire, the NPSOT President elect, is coming from Denton to address us on the importance of habitat preservation in promoting a healthy environment for the pollinators that in turn sustain the native environment of flowering plants. In addition she will update us on the plans for the 2010 Symposium for which our Chapter will take a significant role.

It's time to arrange for election of an officer slate for 2010 and Carol Clark, heading our nominating committee, will be asking for recommendations at the February meeting. We will vote on the candidates in the March meeting. We've had great people serving this last year but help and ideas are perpetually needed and all members are asked to come forward with recommendations to help carrying on our work for the promotion and preservation of Collin County's rich plant heritage.

I'm dreaming of the first leaves and blooms of spring and looking forward to seeing all of you in 2010.

Bill Woodfin

## Great Web Site: Texas Native Trees

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/natives/>

Texas A&M has an indexed list (scientific or common names) of Texas Native trees. Here's information about our state tree:

**Pecan:** *Carya illinoensis* Juglandaceae

Pecans are large deciduous shade trees tolerant of conditions in all of Texas. Supplemental water is needed in the Trans-Pecos area. They are healthies in rich deep bottomland soils, but will adapt to lesser sites. They are the fastest-growing of all the hickories, but like the others of the genus they are difficult to transplant because of their large taproot. While the foliage is fairly fine textured, the tree drops fruit (source of edible pecans), twigs, leaves, and sometimes branches, making it a less than perfect landscape plant. Pecan is the state tree of Texas.

**Plant Habit or Use:** large tree

**Exposure:** sun

**Flower Color:** green, females inconspicuous, males in catkins.

**Blooming Period:** spring

**Fruit Characteristics:** edible nut enclosed in a thick leathery four-valved husk.

**Height:** to 90 ft.

**Width:** to 75 ft.

**Plant Character:** deciduous

**Heat Tolerance:** very high

**Water Requirements:** medium low

**Soil Requirements:** acid neutral

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5

**Additional Comments:** Tends to develop Zn deficiency on alkaline soils, which can be corrected with applications of chelated Zn or foliar sprays; best reserved for use on large sites.

## Monthly Meetings

January – October at the Heard  
The Heard Natural Science Museum  
(Laughlin Hall) 1 Nature Place; McKinney, TX  
[www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org) (972) 562-5566

7:00 p.m. – Doors open; visiting  
7:15 p.m. – Program starts  
After program – Short business meeting

**March 2: The 2010 NPSOT Symposium.** Cynthia Maguire, President-elect of the NPSOT, will share "Birds & Bees and Native Plants," a message about the importance of habitat preservation. She will also discuss plans for the Symposium that celebrates our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and how we will be reaching out to a wider audience of non-members-homeowners, nursery and landscape design professionals and government entities to promote the enjoyment, preservation and restoration of native plants.

**April 6: The Co-evolution of Flowering Plants and their Insect and Avian Pollinators.** Dr. Greg Dimijian, nature photographer, traveler and evolutionary biologist who teaches Behavioral Biology in the Department of Psychiatry at UTSWMS, will expand on a short paper published in 2009. [www.dimijianimages.com/](http://www.dimijianimages.com/)

## 2009 OFFICERS

(2010 OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED IN MARCH)

**President:** Bill Woodfin  
[wwoodfin@dfwair.net](mailto:wwoodfin@dfwair.net)

**Vice President:** Rodney Thomas  
[rook.thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:rook.thomas@yahoo.com)

**Program:** Bill & Fran Woodfin  
[wwoodfin@dfwair.net](mailto:wwoodfin@dfwair.net)

**Secretary:** Jim Smittle  
[jjm@smittle.com](mailto:jjm@smittle.com)

**Treasurer:** Betsy Farris  
[visitingsisters@yahoo.com](mailto:visitingsisters@yahoo.com)

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Newsletter:** Linda Smittle  
[linda@smittle.com](mailto:linda@smittle.com)

**Web Master:** Dolores Williams  
[quiltingpony@hotmail.com](mailto:quiltingpony@hotmail.com)

Questions? Contact 214-693-0103.

## NPSOT News

Betsy Farris

**New NPSOT Board Positions:** The two new board positions of VP Environmental Liaison and VP Advocacy are now in place as a result of the recommendation of the Strategic Planning committee. Peter Loos holds the VP Environmental Liaison position and Jan Daniels holds the VP Advocacy position. Both have subcommittees that they are working with to develop the guidelines and tasks of these two new key areas of the society. Ed Conroy is poised to assist the organization to begin fund raising and grant writing efforts needed to move forward with Strategic Planning goals. Ed was the facilitator for the Strategic Planning Committee meetings.

**State Lending Library:** NPSOT now has a State Lending Library. The books at the state headquarters can be mailed to members upon request. Using the list of resource materials on the NPSOT website, most items can be checked out and mailed to a member. NPSOT will pay to mail to the borrower and pay to return the material. Length of check out time is one month and limit of two items per check out. Some items may be too delicate or expensive to circulate. Call the NPSOT state office to check out the materials.

**2010 Symposium:** President elect, Cynthia Maguire, presented information on the upcoming 2010 symposium in Denton. The website for this event is on the NPSOT website, just click on the NPSOT Symposium 2010 logo.

The site is still being fleshed out but you can find information on Accommodations, Special Events, Denton, Sponsors, Field Trips, TWU, Registration, Vendors, Speakers and Volunteers. The call for papers for the event will appear in the next NPSOT newsletter and 8 papers have already been submitted.

The key note speaker will be David Bamberger with Bamberger ranch.

Special events during the symposium will be a Native Plant and Plant Habitats Photo Contest, entry guidelines coming soon, T-Shirt exchange, trade or donate old symposium tees, and a Native Plant Chorus, if you have fun singing, join in.

## 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/>