

CROSS TIMBERS CHAPTER

of the NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY of TEXAS*****

To Promote the Conservation, Research & Use of Native Plants & Plant Habitats of Texas through Education, Outreach & Example*****

Greetings From the President

It is our hope that everyone made it safely through the recent storms. We sustained little damage other than a couple of large oak tree limbs and the neighbor's roof from his shop, which landed in our driveway. We were unable to get out until we could get it cleaned around noon.

Aren't the wildflowers beautiful! We sat around all winter waiting for them and then one day the air is full of the wonderful fragrance of the Mexican Plum and the redbud are in full bloom. What a day for a walk! Joyce and I love these spring days we can walk around in our park and enjoy the sight, smell and sounds of spring!

We very much enjoyed the lady from Mineral Wells State Park, and her presentation about the Cross Timbers area at the April meeting. We definitely have to make time to go over there and view all the park has to offer. Who would think to call the mineral water "Crazy Water"? By the way, Central Market stocks it.

HUMMINGBIRDS, HUMMINGBIRDS, HUMMINGBIRDS!!! Our next meeting on May 8th will feature the hummingbird specialist from Texas Parks and Wildlife. Joyce and I had the pleasure of hearing him last year and are looking forward to gleaning more this year about hummingbirds and the native plants they feed on. Be sure to come, bring your friends and neighbors and come prepared with your questions. You will not be disappointed!

The board met on Thursday the 24th. Homer Babbit has stepped down from the Publicity Chairman. He has so many irons in the fire. We want to thank Homer for the time and effort he put in. Hopefully, he can get a bit of rest and just enjoy our chapter. Thanks, Homer!

Ilene Porter will be handling the P.R. work now. If you have any ideas on articles, etc., contact Ilene. We look forward to helping her get the word out about our chapter and growing native plants.

We hope to see all of you at the meeting on the 8th!
Duane

Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Duane Smith:

Old Business: Upcoming field trip to Dottie Woodson's greenhouse April 19th at 12:30 pm. The Azle Library project is on hold for now.

New Business: Several members have plants to share for those wanting them. Turks Cap, Carolina Buckthorn, Lambs Ear, and Crossvine were among those mentioned.

Eileen Porter shared an experience she had with a swarm of bees recently. Most likely they were foraging this time of year and looking for a place for a new hive.

Speaker for May 8th is Mark Klym, subject is hummingbirds. Should be a very informative program.

Guest speaker was Mendy Davis, Master Naturalist and office manager for Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway. She presented a very informative program on the park and explained its part in preserving the Western Cross Timbers, a wooded ribbon of Land running north to south from Oklahoma through North Central Texas. Thanks to Mendy for a very good presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.
Kate Measures, Secretary

Western Cross Timbers Plant of the Month

The genus *Erigeron* is a large, diverse genus has a cosmopolitan distribution with the highest species diversity in North America, where over 170 species occur. There are over 400 species worldwide. Western North America is the center of its diversity. *Erigeron* is in the Aster or Sunflower Family.

Like daisies or asters members of this genus have two kinds of flowers. What most people call the flowers are actually flower clusters, a little button made up of many tiny, yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers. Surrounding these are many slender petals.

The genus name *Erigeron* may come from the Greek *eri*, early or *erio* meaning wooly. *plus geron*, (old man), a reference to the appearance of the white hairs of the fruit of old age. Thus the name would mean wooly old man, and could refer to the fruiting head, which is fuzzy like a thistle head.

cont.



Fleabane and bee

The common name is derived from the belief that the dried plants repelled fleas. The word bane is an archaic word meaning poison. Thus fleabanes "supposedly" kill or repel fleas.

They are well-branched plants with erect stems, characterized by their numerous white, lavender or pink ray flowers and yellow disc flowers. Some members of this group have no ray flowers.

Erigeron species are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species. The caterpillars of some moths eat the buds and flowerheads. Solitary bees visit the flowers for nectar or pollen.

An exceptional variety of flies also visit the flowers, while less common visitors include small butterflies, wasps, and beetles. While the fleabanes are often dismissed as 'weedy' they are beneficial to many small insects that play an important role in the functioning of the ecological system.

There are possibly 5 or 6 different species in Parker Co. All our species should be in bloom now.

Philidelpha Fleabane—E. philadelphicus

This is a perennial, possibly short lived, up to 24 in. tall with white to light pink flowers from Mar.-May. It is found on low prairies and stream banks in calcareous clay. It is also one of our largest flowered fleabanes, up to 1 in. across.

Prairie Fleabane E. strigosus, is an annual to short-lived perennial that grows to be between 1- 2 feet tall. The flower heads have 50 to 100 white ray flowers and several yellow disk flowers. There can be several flower heads on a single stem and the flowers are about 1/2 inch across. It is found on the prairies, open woods, pastures and roadsides. It blooms Apr-Jun, sporadically to Oct.

Slender Fleabane, E. tenuis, blooms from Mar-May. It is found in sandy open woods and roadsides. It can be an annual or perennial.

Basin Fleabane E. geiseri, This species might possibly be found here. It has been found in Dallas and Palo Pinto counties. It is white to rosy or lavender and blooms late Mar-Jun.

cont.

Plains Fleabane E. modestus This species should be found here. It is supposed to be found in north-central Texas in dry gravelly or rocky calcareous soils in open areas, on hillsides or slopes, in open brushland or cedar woodlands. It blooms Mar-Nov. with about 3/4 in. white to occasionally lavender flower petals with the characteristic yellow center disk. It is a low (8 in.) sprawling perennial
Jerry Reedy

CROSS TIMBERS Member Perks
10% discount at Stuart's Nursery

CROSS TIMBERS Meetings

We meet Second Thursday of the month except July-Aug & Dec at the Harberger Hill Community Building 701 Narrow St. in Weatherford, Texas Social at 6:30 P.M.
Come to Order at 7:00 P.M.

STATE NPSOT OFFICE

Web Site www.npsot.org

OUR WEBSITE (case-sensitive)

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

To retrieve the Newsletter Select @ and open with MS Word or PDF reader such as Adobe.

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www.tpwd.state.tx.us/ has lots of information on native plants