

CROSS TIMBERS CHAPTER

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

Greetings From the President

Somebody tell me what month it is! My calendar says it's February, but the peach trees are blooming. Did I miss a month?

Spring is busting out all over, even though it's not really spring yet.

It's butterfly and hummingbird time in Texas. Our speaker for March will be the butterfly lady, Joanne Karges. If you like butterflies, you won't want to miss her presentation.

Just to keep you informed, there is a lot going on at the state level of NPSOT, but not much affects us directly. There is talk about having the 2009 symposium in North Texas. That will be determined later. So, there may be opportunity for folks to help.

We will be having a spring propagation seminar, March 22nd. Jan will update us at the next meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on March 13th. Bring a plant or starts, etc for the raffle if you can. See you then,
Duane

Meeting Minutes for Feb. 14, 2008

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

Old Business- Refreshment sheet was passed and completed for 2008.

The spring propagation class will be held March 22 from 10:00 am til 2:00 pm at the home of Jan Daniels with Marilyn Sallee teaching. Plans will be completed at the March meeting.

New Business- Bender type greenhouses were discussed for those interested. Plans can be obtained from the Tarrant County Extension Service. Contact Duane Smith for more information.

A field trip is being planned for April 19 at the home of Dottie Woodson at 12:30 pm, with more details and directions at the March meeting.

Speaker for March meeting will be the butterfly lady Joanne Kargis. This should be a very informative and colorful presentation.

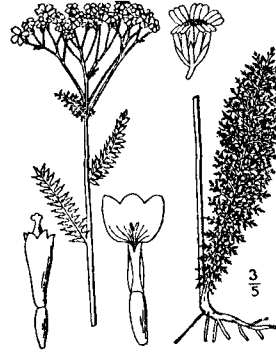
Guest speaker for our February meeting was Steven Chamblee, horticulturist for Chandor Gardens. Steven gave a great slide show and program on native trees, which was very informative and enjoyed by all. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Kate Measures, Secretary

Plant of the Month:

Scientific Name: *Achillea millefolium*

Common Name: Western Yarrow.



Common Yarrow is an Aster; it has been used as a medicinal plant around Texas for a long time. It is both native in some areas and introduced in other areas. It is a perennial herb that produces one to several stems with leaves evenly distributed but branching only at the top. It has a fibrous underground horizontal rhizome. This species gets up to 3 feet tall. It has the lacy foliage and flat-topped flower clusters. It's usually the white (pinkish) flowered variety we see so much of here. Other plants that resemble yarrow are the Queen Anne's Lace and others in the Parsley family.

It's found all over Texas, the U.S. and maybe by now all over the world. This species grows over a wide range of soils and elevations. You will find it often on the side of the road in this area.

GROWTH: Rapid and short-lived.

HARDINESS: Tolerant to drought, grazing and fire.

FLOWERS: April thru Oct

FRUITING PERIOD: Aug thru Nov

SOIL MOISTURE: Well-drained only .

SOIL: loamy , sandy ,gravelly or rocky soils

RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT: seeds

OPTIMUM PH: slightly alkaline

Browse & cover for Wildlife/Livestock: It is a recommended plant by Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, The Native Plant Society of Texas and the LBJ Wildflower Center.

The USDA considers the Common Yarrow to be a weedy species and can become invasive in some regions or habitats and may displace desirable vegetation maybe even other native wildflowers. So is it ok if yarrow is a persistent invader of abused native ranges and meadows where nothing else can grow ?

Yarrow is also a host plant for the Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) Jerry Reedy

SWITCH GRASS

Scientific Name: *Panicum virgatum*

In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy the Plant Materials Program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have been evaluating cultivars of switch grass to utilize as biofuel crops which will be processed into liquid fuel (ethanol and biodiesel), burned to generate electricity, or chemically converted to synthetic-gas. Biofuel is any fuel derived from a recently living organism, such as a plant.

A high quality, sod-forming, bunchgrass; strongly rhizomatous deep rooted long-lived. - One of the 4 primary tall grasses of the bluestem belt, the others being Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, and Yellow Indiangrass.

Tolerant to fire, disease, cold and low fertility soils. - Very good food and cover for wildlife and livestock

Hope it will not be grown as a mono-crop but can be cultivated with other native plants.

Jerry Reedy



The Eleventh Commandment:

“Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion; thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth” (Lowdermilk, 1942). Amen. Class dismissed.

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.

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OUR WEBSITE (case-sensitive)

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

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CROSS TIMBERS Member Perks

10% discount at Stuart's Nursery