

# Cross Timbers Acorn

March 2010

Presidents Corner - - -

Your Executive Board met last night and considered a number of actions that will improve and upgrade your Cross Timbers Chapter. We are currently working on rewriting the By Laws and incorporating the committees that will be needed, as the club grows and participates in other projects and educational aspects - - - following our mission statement as we should.

We have lots of work to look over and taylor to our specific club. We will meet again on April 6TH and continue the process. This will not be a "fly by the seat of your pants attempt". We are trying to set the pace that will allow the club to rest on it's By Law articles for years to come without needing to be revised.

We are using tried and true, already available articles that guide clubs such as ours. There is no reason to "re-invent the wheel." If we can strain the available material out and come up with the words that best serve us - we are the better for it. Saves time and keeps us on a track that is working; because we are using articles that have been used for years by others and adding our special needs in the mix.

If you as members have any suggestions or ideas - - - please see one of the Exec Board members (Tricia Hopkins-Duane Smith-Jacqueline Wortman-Eileen Porter-Jan Daniels) and present your printed material for consideration. We welcome and input that will strengthen the resolve to undergird the chapter and give it the best chance to work with the least effort expended.

We are setting up with the future in mind. We are looking down the road to a time when we number legion and not just 20 to 23 members, as our membership now claims.



## Notation from Texas Invasives website.

Buffelgrass - - - a beastly grass that outcompetes native plants for resources and creates more dangerous wildfires.

A tough and drought-resistant native of the African Savanna, buffelgrass was brought to the so called Bush Country in the 1930's. It was meant to improve grazing on ranches where it was typically planted in cleared and root-plowed areas.

Buffelgrass is an especially dense type bunch grass that grows from a single clump and has many long and drooping leaves. There is a fuzzy - plume like seed cluster at the top.

The thick stands can appear bright green when wet conditions are available and tawny tan in dry venues. In either state, it can out compete the supplanted native grasses and plants important to wildlife; and leach the soil moisture and nutrients necessary to sustain native habitats. In infected areas, it can double each year spreading exponentially from one acre to two to four and so on.

South Texas the buffelgrass is regarded as a primary threat, to the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, on the Lower Gulf Coast. This is an important foraging area for a vast array of wintering waterfowl and raptors and migrating shorebirds and songbirds.

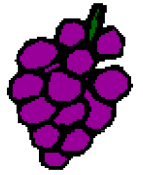
The buffelgrass's ability to spread allowed it to race like a tidal wave across the Sonoran Desert in Arizona.

Wildfires stoked by the hot-burning buffelgrass threatens to destroy desert habitat in Arizona - - - and now Texas - - - particularly in South Texas - - - residents are asked to battle this invasion.

For more information how you can help in Texas to [nature.org/texas](http://nature.org/texas).



Meeting Time - March 11, 2010  
Harberger Community Center  
Weatherford, TX



Refreshments: Dianne Bleau and Lee Ann Nave

Setup for meeting: Dianne Bleau and Lee Ann Nave

Meeting Business Matters - - - 6:30PM

Social time - - - 6:45PM

Speaker - - - 7:00PM

Lenee Weldon, M.A. - - - The Western Cross Timbers



**HELLO WE ARE HAVING A PLANT SALE!!!**

We need every one to help. We need money donations **ASAP** noted as flower purchase bucks. What ever you can afford to donate will be used to purchase from a wholesale plant house in Ft. Worth. See Bill Hopkins or Eileen Porter. They are organizing a plant purchase for the sale that is March 27, 2010 at Clark Gardens.

The people will be there to buy. We need people on the ground to talk to the buying public. We need set up people and we need people to look up plant planting and descriptive sheets for handout with the purchases.

If you can help in any venue - hurry to volunteer. The Master Gardners made a very nice plant profit this year at their sale, so they would have operating money to work with. We need to take a page from their book. They are no smarter than we are and they do not work any harder than we do. Grab a job and enjoy the fellowship and fun of being out in the sunshine for a while.



## **Tips and Stuff**

If your irises turned brown and the rhizomes are soft and mushy, you have an iris borer. It is caused by a day-flying moth that lays its eggs in the dried leaves each Fall. The eggs don't hatch until Spring, when the new leaves are 4 to 6 inches tall. The borer then enters the leaf and eats its way to the rhizome, where it feeds in early Summer. The borer forms a pupa in the soil, and in the Fall emerges as a moth to start the process all over.,

When you dig and divide your iris, clean out old leaves and cut out any discarded damaged portions of the rhizome. The addition of predacious nematodes sprayed onto the plant in the Spring will locate and feed on the borer.

## **YARD SMARTS**

White icicle radish seeds planted at the base of cucumber and squash seedlings, discourage insects, while providing an extra veggie crop.

## **STORM PROTECTION**

Blue birds will nest crowded into one bluebird house. The behavior shares warmth; and keeps the bird out of the wind rain and snow. The chickadees, titmice and woodpeckers, also seek out old nesting sites in dead trees or bird houses in which to roost to find protection against a storm. Flocks of rosy finches often roost in an outcropping of rock where they can get out of the wind. Bobwhite make a circle of the covey, huddled side-by side, with head faceout out. This allows them to share body heat, while being ready to escape in all directions; should they be attacked. Many other birds retreat to dense, evergreen thickets, where they are protected from the elements for the duration of the storm.

