

# 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

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the beautiful native flowers. Anyone have hummingbirds in their yards yet? Our feeders are empty about every three days. It is very interesting to see how they interact with each other and the dogs. Like the deer, the hummingbirds don't mind the dogs laying around they feeders, but Joy and I have to keep our distance before they come into eat. We got to witness a real treat over the weekend while watering the back yard. The hummingbirds came to play in the spray.

Watching them took up the better part of a half hour.

Friends came to visit and talked about our weeds. I explained to them that they were native forbes and used as host plants for bugs to feed the birds. Our momma Phoebe has hatched two clutches of chicks this year and has sure cleaned up the butterfly larva.

Looking forward to the meeting on the 12th of this month. Jan has arranged for Clarke gardens to present their program. Be sure to come and enjoy it.

Keep in mind that after summer break, we will need to elect officers for the upcoming year. If you are interested in holding an office, check with me. See you on the 12th!

Duane

## Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2008

Meeting was called to order by President Duane Smith at 7:00 pm. Mark Klym, hummingbird specialist from Texas A & M presented a very interesting and informative program on hummingbirds. Several good books on the subject were available to purchase after the program. Thanks to Mark for a job well done!

Business meeting began at 7:50 pm.

Announcements: Bill Hopkins gave information on the annual NPSOT meeting. The symposium will be held the third week in October with the subject being the Big Thicket. More details will be forthcoming.

Eileen Porter reported on the Ft. Worth Prairie Park Tour, which will be held on May 24 from 10 am to 2 pm. It is sponsored by the Greater Prairie Restoration Council. More information will be sent via the Yahoo email group.

Old Business: The Azle Park planting date will be May 17 from 7:30 til 12 am. Contact Diane Bleau for more information.

A seminar will be held at Clark Gardens on May 31 beginning at 9:00 am. Speakers include Diane Bleau, Lucy Harrell, and John Snowden. Subjects include day lilies, shade gardening, and grasses.

New Business: Trish Hopkins reported the need for an editor for the state newsletter if anyone is interested.

A report on the Board of Directors meeting was given by Duane Smith.

We were reminded to encourage those who had not renewed their membership to do so. It was also noted that new officers will be selected in the fall and to think about who might be willing to serve.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Kate Measures, Secretary

## Fort Worth Prairie Field Trip

Jarid Manos of the Great Plains Restoration Council (GPRC) lead about 20 of us on a tour of a prairie remnant known as the Fort Worth Prairie. The former Rock Creek Ranch is west of Crowley and North of Hwy 1187. It was a good time of year to visit a Prairie ( May 24<sup>th</sup>). . We were able to ID and photograph a number of prairie type plants in bloom. This 2000 or so acres is owned by the State of Texas General Land Office. Parts of which does not appear to have been "plowed up". There were grassland birds spotted including quail and meadowlark. Eileen Porter and Jan McDaniels represented our Cross Timbers Chapter.

GPRC is trying to protect three major preserves. 4600 acres adjacent to Badlands National Park in South Dakota, 12,000 acres in West Texas, and 2,000 acres of critically endangered urban tall-grass prairie wilderness in Fort Worth, TX. .

It would be so nice if these young people can effectively protect this area. Jerry Reedy

## Western Cross Timbers Plant of the Month

MONARDA Is an erect, annual or perennial aromatic herb in the Mint Family. A North American genus of approx 19 species some of which have been cultivated in our gardens for years.

cont.



Here are three species that may have been native to this area of Parker County.

M. citriodora or Lemon Beebalm

It is an annual found throughout Texas in our prairies, savannahs and roadsides. It has white to pink or lavender corollas with purple dots. Blooms mainly May thru July. It gets up to 80 cm tall.

M. fistulosa, Wild Bergamot or Long Flower Horse Mint is a lavender color (rare whites) and blooms May thru July. This one is regarded as a perennial and gets up to 150 cm tall. This herb is found along streams banks, hillsides, open areas, prairies or woods from East Texas to the West Cross Timbers.

M. punctata or Spotted Beebalm is an Excellent indicator of sandy soil and is sometimes called Sandy-Land-Sage. This one is an annual or short lived perennial and grows up to 100 cm tall. The yellow to cream, white or rare pink corollas have reddish brown dots. It is found in much of N.C. Texas in open woods or grounds. There is a common variety of punctata called intermedia that is endemic to Texas and is found in this area.

Jerry Reedy

BRIT's Brown Bag Botany program on June 25<sup>th</sup>  
The Life and Times of Gideon Linneecum, Texas Naturalist will be brought to life by Dr. Peggy Redshaw and Dr. Jerry Linneecum

Professor Emeritus Jerry Linneecum, great-great-great grandson of Gideon, appears in 19th-century

costume to share Gideon's pioneering observations of Texas flora and fauna from 1835-74.

This special appearance will take place at a special location – the new shared quarters of BRIT Education and REAL School Gardens, Inc. Old Firehouse No. 5—503 Bryan Avenue--Fort Worth, TX 76104 12 noon – 1 pm--Bring your lunch.

Registration is not necessary and is free, however your RSVP will help BRIT accommodate everyone in the new location. -- Call Kathy Scott at 817 332-4441, ex. 237

WICHITA VALLEY NURSERY in Wichita Falls is ran by Paul and Nila Dowlearn for several decades now have been trying to keep a lot of native plants in stock. They have a web site and their phone no. is 940-696-3082. I called one Sat. afternoon recently and talked to Nila. She said to call or e-mail them if some one is looking for a particular native. 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](http://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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—We welcome all news or stories from our members about native plants in the Western Cross Timbers area [gdreedy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gdreedy@sbcglobal.net)  
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