

CROSS TIMBERS CHAPTER

of the NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

October 2007

Volume 1—Issue 10

The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote the Conservation, research and utilization of the native plants and plant Habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example

Greetings From the President

Happy Birthday- We are one year old. From 11 people in Nov 06 to 36 members now. Pat yourselves on the back for getting the word out. Keep on spreading the message about native plants and water conservation. "Your yard, your neighborhood, your community"

The election of officers will be at the November 8th meeting. Come and vote for your choice. All current officers have agreed to serve another year, but nominations will be accepted from the floor.

After the November meeting we will next meet on January 10th, 2008. So, if we don't see you at the meeting or the propagation seminar, have a happy holiday season and see you in January!

Duane

Additional Info. on Nov. 10th Sat. Plant Propagation Seminar

COST NOTHING FREE for MEMBERS if they are not members, join. 10AM till we finish. At the Smith's in Poolville, Tx -Phone 817-220-8668 for directions. Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly. Prepare to get dirty. This is a hands-on class. You'll be taking home plants, seeds and cuttings for your garden. Reference book for class (bring if you have it): Jill Nokes "How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest" A list of tools and supplies were "E" mailed to the members.

See you at the next meeting,

Duane Smith---

Business From Kate:

Call to order at 7:00 p.m. by president Duane Smith.

Old Business: Minutes from September and treasurer's report approved as posted in the newsletter. Nominating committee for new officers was not present. Duane Smith gave the report, all current officers agreed to serve for 2008. Voting to take place in November. Bill Hopkins will represent Cross Timbers at the Georgetown symposium later this month. Cont.

New Business: Our propagation class is set for November 10, Marilyn Sallee officiating. Details and items to bring will be e-mailed to members. Those attending were requested to give a head count by e-mail to Duane Smith. Will finalize at November 8 meeting. Members had a lively discussion on how to clean bird baths, and locating plant and seed sites with items indigenous to our area. Turner Seed in Breckenridge and Justin Seed was a couple of sources mentioned.

Announcements: Various upcoming field trips hopefully to be posted on web site. Speaker for November 8 meeting will be a rep from Clark Gardens in Mineral Wells.

Our guest speaker was Dotty Woodson, Extension Program Specialist, Water Resources, Texas Cooperative Extension Service. Dotty shared two web sites with us on the monarch butterflies, as they are migrating now. Sites are www.monarchwatch.org and www.NABA.org. In addition to sharing information with us on the beautiful monarchs, she presented a wonderful slide program on water conservation which included our state of water in North Central Texas at present, and plans to develop and maintain water for our growing population. Included in the program were ideas on developing yards that were part of the Texas Smart Scape program, various suggestions for native and adapted plants, proper irrigation and sprinkler systems, and basically educating on conserving our most precious commodity, water. Thanks to Dotty for an outstanding program enjoyed by all. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
Kate Measures, Secretary

From the State:

Bill Hopkins is on the State planning committee. Bill is also our "Webmaster"
Congratulations Bill !!!

Our next Meeting:

November 8TH 2007-Please come.

THE ANNUAL SUNFLOWER (HELIANTHUS ANNUUS)

This native is commonly found along roadside ditches and field borders in cultivated fields and on other disturbed soil sites primarily in the western 2/3 of Texas and from Canada to Mexico. It is considered a weed in farming country but is much valued for wildlife. Annual native sunflower seeds provide a major source of food for resident and migratory seed eating birds including small mammals. The native can be grown and managed on small to large tracts of land and are adapted to the rainfall, climatic extremes and varieties of soils found in this area. There is a wealth of information on the cultivation of this species for this including our local feed/seed stores.

Native annuals reproduce by seeds only and should be initially planted in the fall or winter to break dormancy much like our bluebonnets. Be sure to ask for "native annual sunflower" seeds or gather from local areas. Fallow winter disking is the most economical method for growing native annual sunflowers. Expect a lot of variation in size and appearance as a wildflower should be..

The hybrid black oilseed sunflower is a variety with high oil content that was developed primarily for it's oil and has become a popular wild bird food.

The annual sunflower has been cultivated by the American Indians for several thousand years. It was taken to Europe and selectively bred to produce a number of varieties including the Russian Giant.

The "varieties" are economically important for this area but it is NPSOT responsibility to preserve the native species for the future.

JReedy



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

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Duane Smith 817-220-8668

whatwewanted@netzero.net

Vice President: Jan Daniels

janwdan@yahoo.com

Secretary: Kate Measures

jimbob@itexas.net

Treasurer: Linda Morgan

lmorgan342@skywi.com

Public relations: Homer Babbitt

hlbabbitt@swbell.net

Hospitality person: Eileen Porter

reporter@uwmail.com

Editor: Jerry Reedy

gdreedy@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster: Bill Hopkins

bill@prairiepoint.net

OUR WEBSITE (case-sensitive)

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

To retrieve the Newsletter Select @ and open with MS Word.

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

native plants