



NPSOT Highland Lakes Chapter Newsletter



Volume 10, Issue 1
Spring 2008

Chapter Meetings

The Highland Lakes Chapter of NPSOT meets on the second Saturday of January, March, June, and October at 1:00 p.m. in the Marble Falls Library at 101 Main Street.

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.

**Native Plant Society of Texas
Highland Lakes Chapter**

For more information, please contact our chapter president, Dr. Joan Mukherjee
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Marble Falls, TX 78654
(512) 267-5086



Message from the President

Joan Mukherjee

Spring is really an exciting time. As I type, I am watching a little green anole displaying his bright red pouch to attract a female. The barn swallows on my porch are building a new nest after the phoebes refused to relinquish their old one this year, because they decided to raise a second family. Yesterday, I found two new-to-me species of guara blooming. The pond I built last winter suddenly had small fish in it. I don't know where they came from but today there were two 8 inch fish feeding on the small ones. Isn't nature wonderful?

Its been a great spring for prairie parsley and blue curls, two plants that most people don't normally notice. The tall plant with white bloom is the prairie parsley and the medium tall one with a curly blue bloom is blue curls. Look for them along the roadside. Their abundance this year has had many people wondering what they are.

I am sure you are wondering what is ahead for the club. We have decided that we need at least 4 business meetings to keep the club going and will supplement that with several field trips. My goal is to educate and have fun. I am committed to keeping the business meeting to 30 minutes and I will try to include something about a new native plant each meeting. Suggestions for the meetings or field trips are welcome.

I hope you all will be at the June meeting to hear Stacy Pandey from LCRA talk on water conservation. After that we will be on holiday for the summer. I will be sorry to miss seeing all you at the June meeting. I will just be returning from an Alaska birding trip. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again on Sept. 20th on the field trip to Balcones Canyonland Wildlife Refuge.

The Bamberger Ranch Trip

Faye Tessnow

On April 16, our chapter cooperated with the Lago Vista Garden Club on an excursion to Bamberger Ranch in Johnson City. We had ten persons to add to the twenty-six from Lago Vista G.C. It was a three hour tour, after which we had lunch. Our hostess, Colleen Gardner, went with us on an open-air trailer and explained how the ranch got started. She also told us about the many experiments that were ongoing there. After lunch we were taken again by the trailer to Hes's Country Store where we met Mr. David Bamberger, owner and originator of the ranch, which he named Selah. He showed us the memorabilia from his mother's old cabin and told about some of his early years as a young boy in Ohio. To all of us, this was considered a grand finale! He is such a wonderful character and made everything humorous. His dog had welcomed us by running up to the top of an old oak tree to seek squirrels! Many of us had never seen a dog climb a tree before! We arrived back home in mid-afternoon and felt we had experienced a special occasion. The cost of this field trip was \$25 and it was worth twice that amount!

Natives Instead of Common Exotics

Faye Tessnow

The NICE program was actually started by the Boerne Chapter. We borrowed the idea three years ago and made posters with selections for plant of the month ourselves. We solicited nurseries in Marble Falls first, then expanded as some members joined the committee who could deliver the posters. To date, we have eleven outlets, three of which are libraries. They are located in Burnet, Buchanan Dam, Kingsland, Marble Falls, Lago Vista, Cedar Park, Briggs, Leander, and North Austin. The purpose is to educate persons living in this central area about native plants, and introduce those that do particularly well in our soils.

This year (2008) we have the following plant selections: March: Damianita; April: Barbados Cherry; May: Passionflower Vine; June: Turk's Cap. September: Gregg Dalea; October: Twisted Leaf Yucca; November: Lacey Oak.

Anyone having a particular interest in this program and want to help, please call Faye Tessnow: 512-267-2148.

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are open to the public and visitors are always welcome.

Meeting Topic:

- June 14th – Speaker: Stacy Pandey, LCRA, LCRA Water Conservation program and Landscape Water Conservation
 Oct 11th – Speaker: Jan Nance, Useful Native Plants
 Jan 10th – Speaker: Mark Klym, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept Program Certification of Texas Wildscape for Church, Home, Schools
 Mar 14th – TBD; Native Plants for Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardens

Field Trips:

- Sept 20th – 9:00 to 12:00 Balcones Canyonland National Wildlife Refuge- Doeskin Park off FM 1174 and FM 1431- Fall Blossoms and Native Grasses by Jean Nance
 Feb ??? – Backbone Nursery- Orchid House Tour and Native Orchid Discussion
 Apr ??? – Fire Management / Planning and Executing Prescribed Burns in a safe and effective manner at Balcones Canyonland National Wildlife Refuge by Carl Schwoppe
 (Place and Date to be determined next year:)

NPSOT Membership

Membership Applications may be downloaded in either Adobe Acrobat PDF format or Microsoft Word format from the Society's website, www.npsot.org.

When filling out the application, please specify the **Highland Lakes Chapter** as your chapter affiliation.

Mail the completed application with your check to:

Native Plant Society of Texas
 P.O. Box 3017
 Fredericksburg, TX 78624-1929

Membership Categories and Annual Dues

Student	\$15
Senior Individual (65+)	\$20
Senior Couple (one 65+)	\$30
Individual	\$25
Couple/Family	\$40
Group	\$50
Patron	\$100
Benefactor	\$250
Supporting	\$500
Corporate Sponsor	\$1,000
Lifetime (one-time payment for individual or couple)	\$1,000

We're on the Web!
www.npsot.org

N I C E Plant of the Month

Turk's Cap (*Mahonia arborescens* var. *drummondii*) is the NICE plant of the month for June.

Turk's Cap usually has bright red flowers that attract hummingbirds and butterflies from late spring through fall. There are also varieties with white or pink blossoms. The fruit is eaten by several song birds. It performs in sun or shade and can tolerate low to medium moisture. This versatile shrub, native to the Texas Coastal Bend, should be used more frequently in landscapes.

The shrub is usually 2 to 4 feet tall but may reach 8 to 9 feet in the sun; it will get about as wide as it is tall.



Community Events of Interest:

June 11- Local Butterflies and the Plants that Attract Them - by Robert Yantis, Texas Master Gardener, 12:00 to 1:00 bring bag lunch and learn about gardening. Where: Kingsland Branch Library, 125 Polk Ave (FM 1431 to Kingsland, turn left after Wells Fargo Bank and before Subway Sandwich)

Also Bee Keeping Classes and Certification

June 7 - Sat 9-12 Lecture, Burnet Ext Office

June 13- Fri 9-12 Lecture, Burnet Ext Office

June 21 - Sat 9-12 Lecture, Burnet Ext Office

June 28 - Sat 10-12 Michael and Mary Ellen Goff's house in Marble Falls - 830-798-8781 and/or call Wade Hibler office 512-756-5463

Also Llano Recycling Trailer Stations set up

Kingsland MUD 325-388-4559 Tuesday thru Thursday each week

Horseshoe Bay Treatment Plant and Sunrise Beach Community Center- 3rd week of each month

Buchanan Dam/Inks Lake Area Exxon Food Mart- 2nd week of each month

Tow/Buchanan Village - 1st week of each month

Valley Spring General Store/Castell General Store- Alternate on the 4th week of each month. Call 325-247-4504 for any questions