



# NPSOT Highland Lakes Chapter Newsletter



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Marvin Bloomquist

Volume 12, Issue 3

Fall 2010

### Chapter Meetings

The Highland Lakes Chapter of NPSOT meets on the second Saturday of January, March, May, 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.*

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**Native Plant Society of Texas  
Highland Lakes Chapter**  
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Hopefully our recent rains will bring on a great fall wildflower season. September and October rains are also important for bluebonnet growth – we are off to a good start! Fall is also a wonderful time to enjoy butterflies. While there are many good butterfly plants some that are most successful for us are Texas Lantana, Blue Mist Flower, and Bush Sunflower. There are at least 8 butterflies and 3 species on the Bush Sunflower pictured here.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> Faye Tesson, Sue Kersey and I met Ray Hufford and his daughter Cindy McNamara to make a presentation of a book to the Marble Falls Library in memory of Ray's wife of 53



Photo by Sue Kersey

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## Upcoming Events

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

Sep 15-17 10th Annual Plant Conservation Conf

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Ctr

Sep 18 - "Gardening for Wildlife" 1pm

Elizabeth McGreevy,

Marble Falls Library

Sep 25 - Field Trip to Cibolo Nature Preserve

Tour of Yards in Boerne 9-12pm

Picnic Lunch at Preserve at noon

Oct 7-10



Oct. 16 - 1st Annual Highland Lakes Native Plant Garden Tour

Oct. 17-23 - Texas Native Plant Week

We look forward to seeing all of you at these events. Bring your friends and neighbors so they, too, may gain increased understanding of the role and use of plants native to our Hill Country area. Especially under our sometimes extreme drought conditions, when imported plants have no chance of survival without extensive artificial watering, the use of native plants to create an aesthetically pleasing landscape makes both economic and ecological sense.

Williamson County has field trips in our area that may interest you. They are listed below and you can find the details at:

[www.npsot.org/WilliamsonCounty](http://www.npsot.org/WilliamsonCounty).

Kathy McCormack, field chairman says we are welcome to attend---just let her know. ([vef21@yahoo.com](mailto:vef21@yahoo.com), ph 512-698-9880).

**Hospitality** - For each of our quarterly meetings, two members volunteer to be Host/Hostess by providing light refreshments at our meetings. A sign up list is available at each meeting or just e-mail Maggie Booth at [red-tail@tstar.net](mailto:red-tail@tstar.net) if you would be willing to be called to host. We appreciate your willingness to take a turn in this welcoming service to benefit members and guests.

*Don't forget your new name badge! Those that haven't gotten theirs can get them at the meeting.*

## 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](http://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

**Plant Exchange** - Participate in our plant exchange! Every meeting, members are encouraged to bring native plants ready for transplant, for exchange or just for give-away.

*(Continued from page 1)*

years, Maurine. Maurine was one of our most active members for many years. Ray is doing well although I am sure the adjustment has been difficult.

Thanks to the stellar efforts of Fred Zagst and his committee, preparations for the first ever Highland Lakes tour of gardens featuring native plants are well underway. This is going to be a major event that our chapter can be proud of. Five homes from the Marble Falls/ Horseshoe Bay area will be on the tour. It will be held on Saturday, October 16 from 9 AM to 3 PM as an early kickoff for Texas Native Plant Week which officially begins October 18. Volunteers are very much needed. If you can help please contact Sherry Bixler at 512 756 2302.

Now let's get out and enjoy some of this fall weather. Always nice after a long hot summer!

## Field Trip to Cibolo Nature Preserve

A two part field trip is planned for Saturday, Sept. 25. Part A will be to attend the Tour of Yards in Boerne from 9-Noon if you are interested. Four tour yards are located in Fair Oaks Ranch, Cordillera, River Mountain Ranch and north of Boerne. Come see how resilient native landscaping can be during a severe drought.

Become acquainted with the wide variety of plant species native to the Hill Country. Discover how native landscaping can reduce water use, lessen yard maintenance and benefit local wildlife. The homeowner, local Native Plant Society members and Texas Master Naturalists will be available to answer questions. Tour of Yards is brought to you by the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society and CNC. The cost is FREE and open from 9-1.

### Part B

Meet for a picnic lunch at noon at the Cibolo Preserve for lunch and exploring.

The general plan will be to meet at the Preserve at noon for a picnic lunch and a brief presentation about the preserve. After lunch we can explore the preserve on our own. There are easy trails and a lot of the plants are identified. If it is hot we can just stay in the riparian area where it is cool. The director suggested wearing old tennis shoes so that you can wade in the water.

I am still working on the details and will get you some more information latter. It is approximately 80 miles from Marble Falls to Boerne.

## September 18 Program “Gardening for Wildlife”

“Gardening for Wildlife” will be the presentation given by Elizabeth McGreevy at the September 18th meeting of the Highland Lakes Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

“By inviting wildlife to seek refuge on our property, the homeowner can watch, enjoy and appreciate wild things up close and personal,” said Fred Zagst, vice president of the group and program chairman. “Attracting wildlife by planting trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses at ones home, school, or place of work helps our wildlife and it's fun for both young and old alike!”

Loss of habitat is one of the greatest pressures on the survival of our native wildlife. Birds, butterflies and other wild things need native plants. “We can help reverse the decline of wildlife by designing our landscapes to attract wildlife,” Zagst added.

Chances are good that whatever you desire – birds, butterflies, frogs or even lizards – will be visiting your own back yard when you add plants that are wildlife friendly!

The meeting will be held Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Marble Fall Public Library meeting room. A social time with refreshments starts at 1 p.m. The program begins at 1:30. The meeting is open to the public and visitors are encouraged and welcome.

McGreevy’s presentation will cover the principles of attracting wildlife in the landscape, known as Wildscaping, plus she will explore how wildlife interacts with the garden.



## Natives Instead of Common Exotics (NICE) Program



Sam C. Strickland

The selection for September is Gulf Coast Muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaries*) also known as hair-awn muhly. This is a perennial grass that is beautiful in the fall with purple seed heads that sway in the breeze. It attracts birds and can be used in mass or a structured garden. It grows 2'x2' and is a low-water requirement for sunny locations; it has a high resistance for deer.

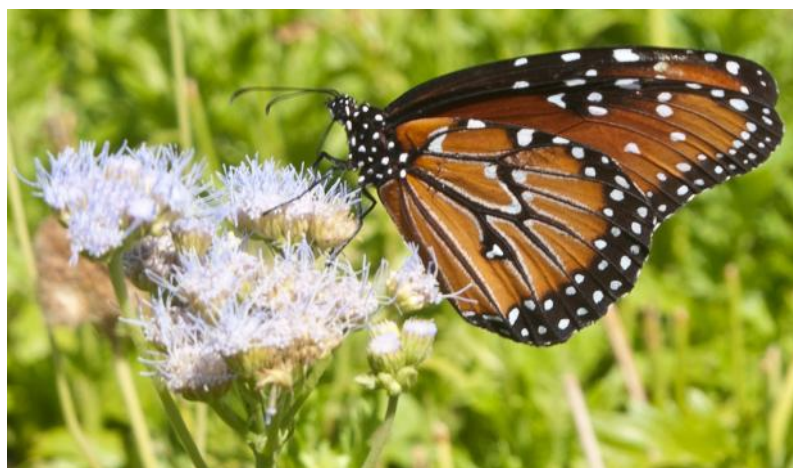


Sam C. Strickland



Harry Cliffe

The selection for October is the White Mistflower (*Ageratina havanensis*). This is a small shrub sometimes called Shrubby Boneset and has pinkish-white flowers. It is a deciduous perennial that is an excellent understory plant and is more drought tolerant than other mistflowers. It will grow in partial shade, but is not completely deer resistant. It attracts hummingbirds, moths & butterflies. Butterflies and moths love the upright, fuzzy blooms.



Mike Childers

This is the time we start thinking about new schedules. Since we don't promote the NICE program in the winter months, we can plan ahead for 2011. If you have a favorite flower to suggest and/or have experience with particular natives please notify Faye Tessnow. The NICE program is for promotion of natives in the nurseries and also in the Libraries. People are pleased to see pictures of the plants they want to buy and use in their landscape. The information is useful, too, for planting and knowing the blossom time.

# Native Plant and Wildflower Identification Class

Mike Childers, Photos by Sue Kersey

Joan Murkergee hosted a wonderful morning at her place on May where she taught how to identify native plants and wildflowers. She had many great examples to examine in her yard. It was a perfect day of fun, friends, wildflowers and wonderful food. Thanks to Joan for a super idea and for all her patience and knowledge.



# Highland Lakes Native Plant Garden Tour

Saturday, October 16, 2010



Join us in celebrating the 2nd annual Native Plant Week (Oct. 17-23) and tour 5 native plant gardens in Marble Falls and Horseshoe Bay area on Saturday, October 16 from 9-3pm. There will be great speakers at each garden, along with knowledgeable gardeners to answer your questions. Visit all 5 gardens for \$10 and a donation of 1 canned food item for the Helping Center of Marble Falls.

For more info, send inquiries to:

[HLnativeplanttour@yahoo.com](mailto:HLnativeplanttour@yahoo.com).

This contemporary Texas ranch house was built utilizing natural materials and low water usage plants and ground covers that are native or adapted to the hill country climate.



This Green Home is on Lake Marble Falls. Nature's design was at her best on this historic "Old River Road" property with towering ancient live oaks, woody shrubs, and sculptural rock formations.



Visit a contemporary home atop a hill overlooking Lake LBJ utilizing natives found on the property and gardens of introduced natives to enhance the landscape. TPWD Certified "Texas Backyard Habitat"



This home inside the Marble Falls city limits has been transformed into an urban wildscape oasis of native and well-adapted plants with a great pond. TPWD certified "Best of Texas Backyard Habitats"



Enjoy an 18 month old certified 5-star green home with a Rainwater Collection system for internal use. This one acre lot bordering a creek on the back features dolomite/sandstone outcroppings covered by wildflowers, native grasses and cacti.

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# Highland Lakes Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas Meeting Minutes Kingsland Public Library, May 8, 2010 1pm

The meeting was called to order by President Marvin Bloomquist, who welcomed 8 guests and 16 members and thanked the hospitality hostesses, Judy Bloomquist and Karen Brugnoli.

Our speaker, Ray Buchanan, presented a program on Rainwater Harvesting, giving us statistics on Texas projected water demand and supply, and common water pollution sources. He shared the schematic for a house rain-water harvesting system, and showed some of the state and city/county incentives for using such a system.

## Reports

The secretary's report prepared by outgoing secretary Fran McSpadden was approved by acclamation after a motion was made by Jeff McSpadden and seconded by Maggie Booth.

The treasurer's report showed incoming funds of \$588 from the Lawn & Garden Show, and \$83 from the flower show, yielding a current balance of \$2,276.73. The report was approved by acclamation.

The hospitality chairman, Maggie Booth, noted that we still need volunteers for hospitality duty for the January and March 2011 meetings.

Judy Bloomquist has agreed to be our Membership chairman for this coming year.

Faye Tessnow reported on the plans for the NICE program for this coming year. For the native Plant Week Celebration October 18-22, Faye will be working with fourth graders in the Lago Vista school; she asked for volunteers to work with other schools in the area to provide educational opportunities regarding native plants. If you are interested in this project, please contact Faye.

Details for the May 22 field trip to Betsy Ross Farms in Granger were discussed by Fred Zagst.

Marvin announced that we are setting up a Yahoo site for our group, and encouraged every member to respond to his request to visit the site to activate your website membership.

The conflicts with Marble Falls' market days and other events created by our current meeting schedule were discussed. Sue Kersey proposed changing the regular meetings to the third Saturday of the month. Mike Childers seconded the motion which passed unanimously by acclamation. Joan Mukherjee proposed that we change the October meeting to September, and Fran seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Fred Zagst is pursuing a possible chapter project to create native plant beds in a public area in Marble Falls.

Joan Mukherjee shared plans for her May 19 Flower Identification workshop to be held on her property.

A motion to adjourn was made by Judy Bloomquist, and passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Brugnoli.