

TEXAS NATIVE TIMES

FALL 2005

*The Newsletter for the Houston Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
Serving the Texas Coastal Region*



Please join us! Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month (February through November) at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Drive in Memorial Park. Information sharing is from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. The presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. Feel free to bring a plant to show or have identified.

Houston Chapter Meetings

August 18– Margaret Gnewuch - Gardening with Natives in the Floodplain Longtime native plant enthusiast Margaret Gnewuch will discuss great natives for floodplain yards, along with methods for keeping the natives happy. Native plants are flood tolerant, and they also require less water than exotics. As more people move into the floodplain, both too much water and too little water will become increasingly important issues that will present challenges to all of us. Come learn more about sustainable gardening in the floodplain!

September 15 – Glenn Olsen Beware But Be Informed: Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron toxicarium*) and Poison Ivy (*T. radicans*). NPSOT-H Past President and Audubon Member Glenn Olsen will discuss the positive and negative aspects of our local poisonous plants, poison oak and poison ivy. What do they look like? How do they spread? How can you protect yourself? What can you do if you are exposed? Glenn will make sure that we are well equipped to go out there and conquer the plant world without becoming casualties ourselves.

October 20 - Gloria Dow, IKEBANA (Japanese Flower Arranging) with Native Plants: Demonstration and Workshop Through her work with Japanese Flower Arranging, Gloria Dow educates by using native plants. The incredibly talented Gloria will bring a variety of native plant flowers and other materials to work with. You will be amazed to see the beauty of Gloria's creations. Don't miss it!

November 17 Annual Plant Swap, Party & Election Bring your seeds and plants to share! Be ready to take some great plants home! We will have all kinds of goodies to eat and drink. After viewing and discussing the plants that have been brought, we settle down to swap plants. Come to stock up on hard-to-find natives!

Before the evening is over, we will elect chapter officers for the 2006 calendar year. Your vote counts.

Want a really great DEAL on hard-to-find native plants? Volunteer at least 4 hours at the Wildscapes Workshop and get your choice of natives at cost! (great selection, great price!) Wildscapes Workshop Work Hours- 10 to 2 Friday, Sept. 23 (setup), or 7 to 11 or 11 to 3, Saturday Sept. 24.

To Volunteer, contact Chris Povinelli at cmpov@swbell.net, 713-665 0219

NPSOT – STATE EVENTS

October 20-23, 2005 – Fall Symposium 2005 -- The Big Bend Chapter invites and welcomes you to our beautiful Big Bend for the 2005 Symposium. Sessions will be in both Fort Davis and Alpine. Fort Davis is the most central town for lodging, but no place is a bad place! Fort Davis, Alpine and Marfa are all 30 minutes apart. More information at NPSOT-State website at: <http://www.npsot.org>.

Fall 2005 Field Trips

There are three field trips scheduled this fall. All three will originate at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway. Please wear appropriate footwear for walking through wet or dry fields, bring drinking water, bugspray, and a packed lunch. Field trips normally end after the picnic lunch. If the weather is drizzling rain, we proceed, but if it is a gully-washer, we still gather at the Arboretum and then cancel. We meet at the Arboretum between 8 and 8:30 am, and depart promptly at 8:30. Please contact Flo Hannah for any additional inquiries: 713-956-6303. **Special note:** the first field trip, led by David Rosen, will be on a Saturday; the next two, led by Larry Brown, are on Sundays.

Saturday, October 1 to a small (approx. 24-acre) coastal prairie relict east of Ellington Field. The field trip will be led by David Rosen, Botanist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Ecological Services Division. This small prairie has some rare plants, pimple mounds, and interesting ecology. This is an opportunity to see the last vestiges of what used to be thousands of acres of coastal prairie surrounding the city of Houston. David will need permission for the group to visit the site, and he has asked for a head count prior to the field trip. Please email me, fhannah@wt.net by September 26th if you plan to attend. Parking is a problem and we will need to carpool. SUVs or trucks are preferable vehicles to hop a small curb and park in a median. Please note the change of venue, our outing is on **Saturday**, not Sunday as usual.

Sunday, October 16 to the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS). Note, the next 2 field trips are on Sundays. It is always a favorite trip, with 655 acres of wilderness with trails and flowing creeks through a mixed hardwood forest. It is located about an hour and a half drive northeast of Houston in the San Jacinto National Forest. Dr. Larry Brown will lead the field trip to some of the five meadows comprising a little more than fifty acres. The "Vascular Flora of the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary," was written by Charles Peterson and Dr. Brown, who identified over 400 plant species in the sanctuary. If you prefer meeting the group at the sanctuary, there is a map and directions at http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_Map.pdf

Sunday, November 6, Dr. Brown will lead us at the Parker Tract, one of the newest acquisitions of the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex as part of the Austin's Woods acquisition project. This 200-plus acre refuge is mostly bottomland hardwood forest, with an interesting remnant coastal prairie opening. The refuge is located on Hall's Bayou near the Brazoria and Galveston County line. If you chose to join the group closer to the refuge, meet at the convenience store at the intersection of SH 6 and FM 1764 in Santa Fe at approximately 9:30 am.

2006 Nominating Committee

We have our 2005 Nominating Committee:
David Knowles, Paige Miller & Ruth Milburn.

NPSOT-H Booth: We hope to have a booth at Bulb Mart, October 6, 7 & 8, 2005 Thursday, Saturday & Sunday
<http://www.gchouston.org/Level1/Blubmart.htm> Please sign up!

Thursday: 9:30 am to 1pm (3-5 hours) _____

1 pm to 5 pm (4 hours) -- L an Shen

Friday: 9:30 am to 1pm (3.5 hours) -- Cindy Ingo (tentative)

1 pm to 5 pm (4 hours) _____

Saturday: 8 am to 12 noon (4 hours) _____

12 noon to 4 pm (4 hours) _____

BOARD POSITIONS:

President Linda Knowles

VP/Programs Coordinator..... Sarah Smith

Secretary.....Christine Povinelli

Treasurer.....Lillian Leeds

Publicity/Outreach CoordinatorGlenn Olsen

Newsletter Editor.....Becky Phillips

NON BOARD POSITIONS

Field Trip Coordinator.....Flo Hannah

Volunteer Coordinator.....Open

2005 Board and Wildscapes Workshop meeting dates:

Second Thursday, Sept. 8th Wildscapes

Second Thursday, November 10th .- Our post Wildscapes meeting

Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. - Bayland Community Center; 6400 Bissonnet; Bellaire, Texas

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

Lakewood Forest Garden Club Frank Abbott Maria Bohnert Carlton Collier Virginia Davis

Sandra Grebe Wilson Harper Polly Singley Alice Sweeney-Herd Kelly Walker

Professional Resources

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NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS HOUSTON CHAPTER

Box 131254
Houston, TX 77219-1254

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL

Membership is open to any individual or organization. If you wish to join us, please indicate the category of membership you desire, then clip and mail the application with the appropriate remittance to:

Native Plant Society of Texas, Houston Chapter, P.O. Box 131254 Houston, Texas 77219-1254

Select your membership category:

New Renewal

Student \$15

Senior Citizen \$15

Individual \$20

Family \$25

Group \$35

Patron \$50

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Corporate \$1000

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