



# NPSOT-H TEXAS NATIVE TIMES

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

Spring 2008 (February-March-April)

***NPSOT Mission:***

***Promote the conservation, research and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas, through education, outreach and example.***

NPSOT-H meets the third Thursday of each month (January through November)  
Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Drive in Memorial Park  
Information sharing & fellowship 7:00 p.m. Program 7:30 p.m.

## **President's Message**

By Linda Knowles

Great 2008: The Year of the School Habitat Garden

This year, we would like to be more involved in providing plants, planning and other assistance to school gardens. With help from many volunteers, each school could have an interactive natural garden to help educate children in science. Consider working with our school habitat committee to help plan, create, maintain and enhance school gardens.

Do you like to grow things? Consider raising up a few pots of *Liatrix pycnostachya*, gaillardia, coneflower, *Coreopsis tinctoria* or mexican hat, plants that we can share with habitat gardens. Join the NPSOTH/Gulf Coast Master Naturalist plant propagation committee; we

learn a lot about propagation and we really enjoy our potting days.

I want to encourage any of you who have had thoughts about joining a committee or running for a board position to jump in. The more there are to help in running our chapter, the easier it is. We have several committees that could use more members. It would be great to see some new faces at our board meetings and our Wildscapes Workshop planning meetings in the coming year. And, remember our board meetings are open to all members, if you just want to check it out.

What is your resolution for the new year? I hope that it is to become more involved in your local Native Plant Society!

Happy New Year to all our members and friends!

## **GO NATIVE U**

Need a reason to visit Austin? Want to learn more about native plants? Check out the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's spring classes at [www.wildflower.org/gonativeu](http://www.wildflower.org/gonativeu).

Go Native U is an informal education program designed to teach adults about the use and conservation of native plants. Students learn about the benefits of gardening with native plants in a fun and interactive environment. All classes will be held at the Wildflower Center's beautiful campus in south Austin.

## CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS & EVENTS 2008

*Chapter meetings will be held at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center  
unless otherwise noted*

### **Thursday, February 21, 2008**

#### ***Privet Reinfestation Study***

**Joe Blanton**, Conservation Director at The Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, shares information on how HANC is actively involved in removing several exotic and invasive plant species that have successfully colonized the grounds. Some of the foreign invaders include Chinese and Japanese privet (*Ligustrum sinense* and *L. japonicum*, respectively), air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) and Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*). Once removed, trees and shrubs native to the Houston area planted in their place.

### **Thursday, March 20, 2008**

#### ***Prairie Ecology***

**Mark Kramer**, Stewardship Coordinator for Armand Bayou Nature Center & Preserve [www.abnc.org](http://www.abnc.org), will discuss restoration efforts at this unique, valuable ecosystem that covers a total of 2800 acres (Preserve = 300 acres; Nature Center = 2500 acres). This ecosystem is of high ecological and socioeconomic value to the area and is located south-eastern Harris County, along Armand Bayou. Join us to learn about using fire to restore native grasses and forbs. NOTE MEETING LOCATION: Nature Discovery Center in Russ Pitman Park at 7112 Newcastle, Bellaire, Texas, just inside the West 610 Loop, between Bellaire Blvd and Evergreen.

### **Thursday, April 17, 2008**

#### ***Bees***

**Jack Brady**, Research Assistant, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Stephenville will present a program focusing on plants that attract bees; pollination; and bee conservation.

### **Thursday, May 15, 2008**

#### ***Plants of East Texas***

Gulf Coast Master Naturalist **Pauline Singleton** will focus on plants of the Geraldine Watson Pinelands Preserve.

### **Thursday, June 19, 2008**

#### ***Wetlands & Wetland Plants***

Andy Sipocz, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department wetlands biologist, will share his extensive knowledge of wetland ecology.

**NOTE MEETING LOCATION:** Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Dr., Houston

### **Thursday, July 17, 2008**

#### ***Plants for Birds***

Glenn Olsen, member and past president of the Native Plant Society of Texas, will give insight into planting to attract birds. Glenn is a member and past vice president of education for the Houston Audubon Society. He is a contributing author for the Houston Chronicle Real Estate Section and writes on gardening, native plants, birds and butterflies.

**NOTE MEETING LOCATION:** Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Dr., Houston

### **Thursday, August 21, 2008**

#### ***Endangered Plant Species of East Texas***

Dr. Anita Tiller, Botanist and Conservation Manager at Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens, will speak about the mission of the Center for Plant Conservation and the role of Mercer Arboretum in the mission. Her talk will focus on endangered plants of East Texas, the Gulf Coast, and parts of Louisiana.

Saturday, September 13, 2008—Wildscapes Workshop

### **Thursday, September 18, 2008**

#### ***Linear Forests in our City's Esplanades***

Joe Turner, City of Houston Parks Department Director, encourages the widespread use of native landscaping on Houston's esplanades. He told Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine in 2006, "My vision is to have beautiful, treed medians, and underneath, native plants that require very little maintenance."

October 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2008—NPSOT/NPAT Symposium, Big Thicket

**CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS & EVENTS** Continued from page 2...

**Thursday, October 23, 2008 (fourth Thursday)**

*Integrating Ecology & Real Estate*

Leonard Bachman, Associate Professor at University of Houston College of Architecture, will give tips for energy saving ideas using our existing home. He will explain solar geometry and shading; where plants are most useful; wind and breeze patterns; and why to keep those things in mind when landscaping.

**Thursday, November 20, 2008**

**Annual Native Plant & Seed Swap and Social**

Bring native plant seeds or native plants, or simply join us; we'll have extra seeds and plants to share.

**Thursday, December 11, 2008 (second Thursday)**

**Annual Holiday Gathering**

Kim Son Restaurant, 2001 Jefferson, 7:00 pm. RSVP to [DKnowlesPE@aol.com](mailto:DKnowlesPE@aol.com)

*Have an idea for a program? Heard a great speaker lately?*

*Pass that information along to Sarah Smith, 713-690-4360 or [sarahbethsmith1@aol.com](mailto:sarahbethsmith1@aol.com).*



**NPSOT-H BOARD MEETINGS 2008**

Meetings are at 7pm at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston

**Thursday, February 14**

**Thursday, April 10**

**Thursday, May 8**

**Thursday, June 12**

**Thursday, August 14**

**Thursday, September 11**

**Thursday, October 9**

*Please note: All members and interested supporters are encouraged to attend NPSOT-H Board & Wildscapes Workshop meetings. Board meetings are occasionally canceled if business can be conducted by e-mail and may sometimes need to be held at an alternate location due to scheduling challenges; attendees should RSVP to [Dknowlespe@aol.com](mailto:Dknowlespe@aol.com) or 281-558-3710.*

**NPSOT-H BOARD 2008**

President	Linda Knowles 281-558-3710 <a href="mailto:Dknowlespe@aol.com">Dknowlespe@aol.com</a>
Vice President Programs Coordinator	Sarah Smith 713-690-4360 <a href="mailto:Sarahbethsmith1@aol.com">Sarahbethsmith1@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Kelly Walker 713-863-8034 <a href="mailto:kellywalkr@sbcglobal.net">kellywalkr@sbcglobal.net</a>
Treasurer	Lillian Leeds 713-527-0821 <a href="mailto:Leeds.family@sbcglobal.net">Leeds.family@sbcglobal.net</a>
Education Coordinator	Chris Povinelli 713-665-0219 <a href="mailto:Cmpov@swbell.net">Cmpov@swbell.net</a>
Field Trip Coordinator	Paul Roling 281-353-7413 <a href="mailto:PVRoling@att.net">PVRoling@att.net</a>
Hospitality Coordinator	Sheryl Marquez 713-973-7101 <a href="mailto:Trisheratops@aol.com">Trisheratops@aol.com</a>
Publicity/Outreach Coordinator	Lan Shen 713-614-7033 <a href="mailto:L71S@yahoo.com">L71S@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Tricia Bradbury 281-242-2338 <a href="mailto:Triciabrad@aol.com">Triciabrad@aol.com</a>
Webmaster	Odie Asscherick <a href="mailto:masternaturalist@webtv.net">masternaturalist@webtv.net</a>

## Red School Habitat Garden

By Linda Knowles

Deana Roberts, NPSOTH member and President of the Far Corners Garden Study Club and the Houston Orchid Society, spearheaded a native planting at the Red School. Deana has applied for a grant from National Garden Clubs so that we can include more plants in the Habitat Garden. Deana worked with Mary Fallon, Head of the Science Department at Red School, and Linda Knowles of NPSOTH.

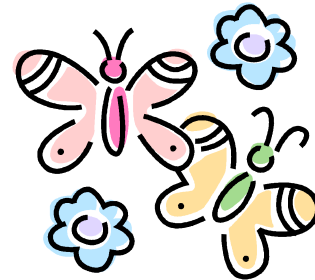
Plants included wax myrtle, coral honeysuckle, yellow star grass, cardinal flower, creeping spotflower, gaura, gulf coast muhly grass, deciduous holly, *Lantana horrida*, turk's cap, *Liatris acidota* and more. We mixed the wildflower seeds with cornmeal so we could tell where we had already spread seeds.

The kids dug holes for the plants, cleared the area with rakes, and they all helped plant the wildflower seeds in the wildflower area. They had a wonderful time!

Red School is located near the Willow Meadow subdivision, near South Post Oak. Volunteers are needed to keep the habitat garden in good shape during holidays and when school gets really busy. All school volunteers must sign in at the school's front desk.



Linda Knowles put the kids to work planting the Red School Habitat Garden



## PlantWise: Native Alternatives for Invasive Plants

Want to know what kind of plants you can substitute for common exotic plants? Go to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's PlantWise website at <http://www.wildflower.org/alternatives/index.php> to find an Invasive Plant to Native Plant Translator for specific regions of the United States. Common or scientific names can be used. For example, put in the word "nandina" and you'll get a dozen native alternatives, including three hollies: yaupon, inkberry and dahoon.

Don't have internet access? Order the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's publication *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*, which sells for about \$10. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225, 718-623-7200.

Invasive plants invade natural areas all over the U.S., displacing biodiverse habitats that supported many varieties of birds and other wildlife. Many native plants have superior qualities over commonly used invasives. For example, the native cultivar dwarf yaupon holly grows slowly in an attractive shape, needing little care. Asian ligustrum species have irregular growth habits that require frequent pruning, and many ligustrum species are 30 to 40 foot tall trees when mature.

PlantWise is a partnership between the National Park Service, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, The Garden Club of American and the National Invasive Species Council. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden provided plant lists and the Houston Advanced Research Center provides funding for the program.

## NPSOT-H SPRING FIELD TRIPS

By Paul Roling

Three field trips are scheduled for Spring 2008. All three trips will be on Sundays and led by Dr. Larry Brown. Field trips originate at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway. Please wear appropriate footwear for walking through wet or dry fields, bring drinking water, bug spray, 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 AM. Please contact Paul Roling for any additional inquiries: 281-353-7413 or PVRoling@att.net.

### **Sunday, March 9**

Bear Creek Park and the Addicks Reservoir on the west side of Houston (approximately 17 miles from the Arboretum) will be our first outing. The park consists of 2,168 acres of floodplains and forests with trails, a zoo, picnic areas, sports facilities, and more. We are planning this trip for the early part of March in hopes of finding the endangered prairie dawn flowers and other early spring flowers.

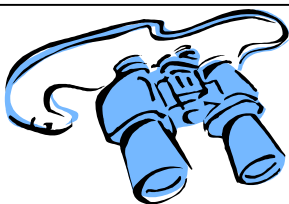
### **Sunday, April 13**

The Menard Creek Corridor Unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve (approximately 71 miles from the Arboretum) will be our goal. This unit encompasses over three thousand acres in Polk, Hardin, and Liberty Counties. It contains mostly floodplains snaking its way from the Big Sandy Unit to the Trinity River where it ends. A great variety of wildflowers abound in this unit as well as numerous mushrooms, slime molds, liverworts, mosses, and lichens. Dr. Brown has found many summer and fall species of vascular plants in this unit that are new to the Big Thicket. What new species will we find this spring? Menard Creek is a hot birding site also.

### **Sunday, May 4**

Our destination is the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site (approximately 32 miles from the Arboretum) on the east side of Houston. In this 1,200 acre park, some of the few remaining examples of coastal prairie, tidal marsh, and bottomland forests as seen by the early settlers and the soldiers at the Battle of San Jacinto can be experienced. A trail leads through all three of these ecosystems.

If you want to be added to the NPSOT field trip e-mail list, send an e-mail to PVRoling@att.net requesting to be added to the list. E-mail reminders are sent out about a week before each trip.



Texas Native Times is published quarterly by the  
Native Plant Society of Texas—Houston.

Editor:  
Tricia Bradbury  
Triciabrad@aol.com  
281-242-2338

**Winter** (Nov-Dec-Jan) deadline October 10  
**Spring** (Feb-March-April) deadline January 10  
**Summer** (May-June-July) deadline April 10  
**Fall** (Aug-Sept-Oct) deadline July 10

### **2008 Levy Park Workdays**

(tentative dates)

RSVP to dknowlespe@aol.com

Last Friday of the month, 9:30 to 11:30 am

February 29	March 28
April 25	May 20
June 27	July 25
August 29	September 26
October 31	November 28
No workday in December	

## HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS!!

### 2008 NPSOT-Houston—Information Booth Schedule

It's our job to educate the public about the use of native plants. One way to do just that is by working at our NPSOT-H booth during special events. Check your calendar and set aside some of these dates to tell the world about native plants. You do not need to have a vast knowledge of all things native—we have lots of literature, but we could certainly use your friendly face. Contact Linda Knowles to help for a few hours!

Saturday, March 1 10 am to 3 pm  
**Nature Day**, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson

Saturday, March 1 10 am to 4 pm  
**Nature Fest** Jesse Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble, TX 77338

Friday, March 28, and March 29 8 am - 4 pm  
**Mercer Arboretum March Mart Plant Sale**, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road

Saturday, March 29 8:30 am to lunch (provided to volunteers)  
**Trashbash** at Mason Park

Saturday, April 5 8:00 am-5:00 pm  
**Annual Earth Day at Brazos Bend State Park**, 21901 FM 762, Needville

Friday, Saturday & Sunday April 11, 12 & 13  
**Annual Migration Celebration** at the Mid-Coast Wildlife Refuge near Angleton

Saturday, April 12 10 am to 3 pm  
**Nature Discovery Center Spring Fling**, 7112 Newcastle in Bellaire

Saturday, April 12 10 am to 3 pm  
**Woodlands Earth Day Festival**, The Woodlands High School

## Native Plant Society of Texas Spring Symposium

Hosted by the Wildflower Center and the Native Plant Society of Texas

Saturday, February 23 8 am to 5 pm

### Habitat Conservation, Citizen by Citizen

This symposium will review habitat preservation, plant conservation and invasive species management programs in Texas, exploring resources that can make a positive difference toward ecological sustainability in your region. Plenary session followed by an in-depth afternoon of breakout sessions. Topics include:

**Invasive Plant Management in Texas** - Dr. Damon Waitt, Ph.D.; Wildflower Center  
**Community Wildlife Habitats** - Alice Nance; National Wildlife Federation  
**Texas Plant Conservation** - Flo Oxley; Wildflower Center  
**Pollination Biology: Understanding Beneficial Insects** - Kim Peoples Bacon

**Good News Over Bad: Native Alternatives to Invasives** - Judy Walther  
**Larval Plants for Your Landscape** - Bill Lindemann  
**Plant Propagation Basics with Native Plants** - Sean Watson  
**Riparian Restoration** - Rufus Stevens  
**Wildscape Habitat Design** - Kelly Bender

LadyBird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, Texas

Early registration: \$65 per person; after January 31, \$75 per person  
For complete details and registration, visit the LadyBird Johnson Wildflower Center website at  
<http://www.wildflower.org/springsymposium>

**FLO HANNAH**

**SELLING NATIVE COASTAL  
PRAIRIE GRASSES**

*Ideal for residential and  
commercial landscaping*



**HANNAH NATIVE GRASSES, INC**

713 956-6303 fhannah@wt.net

DO YOU KNOW OF COMPANIES WHOSE ADS YOU  
THINK SHOULD BE IN THIS SPACE?? SEND THE  
COMPANY NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION TO  
THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR!!!

---

*Our advertisers help make publication of this newsletter possible.  
Please show your appreciation with your patronage.*

If you would like to place an ad in this publication or would like to make a recommendation of a business that may be interested in placing an ad, please contact newsletter editor, Tricia Bradbury, 281-242-2338 or Triciabrad@aol.com.

Ad rates include publication in 4 issues of the quarterly Texas Natives Times:

Small ad (2" X 3.5") \$50.00  
Large ad (4" X 3.5") \$75.00

**NPSOT ADDRESSES**

State office: NPSOT  
P.O. Box 3017  
Fredericksburg TX 78624  
830-997-9272  
coordinator@npsot.org.

Local chapter: Native Plant Society of Texas- Houston Chapter  
P.O. Box 131254  
Houston TX 77219-1254  
E-mail at Houston@npsot.org

For newsletter purposes, Editor Tricia Bradbury asks that newsletter articles, returns & notices be emailed to triciabrad@aol.com, or sent to her address:  
210 Kingfisher Dr.  
Sugar Land TX 77478-4710

**HAVE A FAVORITE PLANT?**

**GET YOUR NAME IN PRINT!**

If you would like to acquaint your fellow NPSOT-H members with one of your favorite plants or one you think should be used more often, write an article for our newsletter. We would like to feature a native plant in each newsletter edition.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS  
 HOUSTON CHAPTER  
 Tricia Bradbury, Editor  
 210 Kingfisher Dr.  
 Sugar Land, TX 77478-4710

**PRSRT STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Sugar Land, Texas  
 Permit No. 179**

**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, P.O. Box 3017, Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Membership category:	New	Renewal
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Senior Individual (65+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	NAME _____
Sr. Citizen Couple (one 65+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	ADDRESS _____
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
Couple/Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	COUNTY _____
Group	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	PHONE _____
Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	EMAIL _____
Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	
Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	
Lifetime (one time payment)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	