



NPSOT-H TEXAS NATIVE TIMES

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

Winter 2008-2009 (November-December-January)

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

School Habitat Gardens

The Houston Independent School District has made a commitment to increase the number of habitat gardens at schools. HISD is working with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF).

Each NWF certified habitat must include:

- *Wildlife Food Sources* such as native plants, seeds, fruits, nuts, berries, or nectar.
- *A source of Water* such as a birdbath, pond, water garden or stream.
- *Places for Cover* such as thickets, birdhouses or multistory vegetation.
- *Places to Raise Young* such as dense shrubs, vegetation, nesting box, pond
- *Sustainable Gardening* practices such as the use of mulch or compost, a rain garden.

Habitat gardens can add to a child's education in a variety of ways. In a school garden, students become immersed in learning by doing, by getting their hands dirty, and by observing the growth of plants and seeing the insects that feed on plants. It is good to start with seeds and easily grown plants so that students can gain basic gardening skills.

To have a school garden you need a number of things including:

- appropriate space,
- support of administration (principal)
- a sponsor or source of money for supplies
- a source of plant materials

- and the brilliant enthusiasm and energy of a dedicated teacher and volunteers.

The best school gardens are ones that all students and staff feel a part of. Once your scheme and location has been approved you can start putting your energies into getting garden supplies in order. You may need tools, soils/amendments/mulch, seeds/plants, hoses, garden borders and fences. You'll need to figure out how to include students in digging, planting and maintaining the garden.

It is fun to plant native plants that support specific butterflies and then observe the butterfly using the plant. I hope you will consider volunteering to support a habitat garden at your local school.

Hurricane Relief:

Many in the Houston area are still struggling to get their homes and yards back to the condition they were in before the storm.

When the September 13 Wildscapes Workshop was canceled, registrants who could not attend the rescheduled workshop were given the option to donate their fees to the American Red Cross or the Houston Audubon Sanctuary Fund. A total of \$355 was donated to these organizations to help in Hurricane Ike recovery efforts. How generous!

If you'd like to support Hurricane Ike recovery efforts, you can make a donation to the Greater Houston Area Red Cross at 2700 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77098 www.houstonredcross.org. The Red Cross actively responds to provide disaster assistance to affected communities.

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CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS & EVENTS 2008-2009

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

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

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Plant Propagation

Speaker TBD

Bayland Community Center

6400 Bissonnet (just west of Hillcroft)



Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

-- Marcel Proust

2009 NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers:

President	Linda Knowles
Vice President-Programs	NOT FILLED
Secretary	Lan Shen
Treasurer	Chris Povinelli

Additionally, the following members have agreed to serve in board positions:

Newsletter Editor	Tricia Bradbury
Education Coordinator	Kelly Walker
Membership Coordinator	Becky Smith, with Sam Smith
Publicity Coordinator	Flo Hannah
Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator	NOT FILLED
Field Trip Coordinator	Paul Roling
Webmaster	Odie Asscherick
Meeting Hospitality	NOT FILLED

*****Please note that the officer position of VP Programs has NOT been filled. Our monthly programs are a major educational opportunity to bring our mission message to the general public as well as to our members. Consider volunteering to coordinate our programs for the coming year. You don't have to think up every speaker—you can get lots of recommendations from the board.***

President's Message continued from page 1...

Or you can make a donation to the Houston Audubon Society at 440 Wilchester Boulevard Houston, TX 77079 www.houstonaudubon.org Audubon Sanctuaries were devastated by the hurricane, and efforts to restore bird habitats are ongoing.

Please join us!

Come to the monthly meetings to get the latest information on hands-on habitat restoration projects, critical letter writing campaigns, how you can help plan for the Wildscapes Workshop, or join a field trip to a **wild place** you might never have come across on your own. If you have a special talent that is rusting away, let us know and we will put you into action. Don't be shy! There is never a better time than the present...and we really do need you!



Wildscapes Workshop Report

By Linda Knowles

More than 150 attendees and volunteers enjoyed the 11th Wildscapes Workshop and Native Plant Sale, rescheduled to October 11 by Hurricane Ike. The speakers were wonderful; they kept the audience's attention throughout the workshop. Many great books were available at the book sale, including Doug Tallamy's new book, *Bringing Nature Home*. Only a handful of plants remained from the more than 900 plants sold to volunteers and at the plant sale!

Speakers included Watersmart's Chris LaChance and Angela Chandler on "Rain Gardens and Introduction to Rainwater Harvesting". Chris let us know the need for Watersmart Landscaping, increasing populations, but no increase in available water. Angela brought a rain barrel to illustrate her talk, and she showed that there are many ways to disguise a rain barrel!

Pineywood Nursery & Landscapings' Jason McKenzie spoke on "Great Plants for a Wildscapes Landscape" and was able to give advice on trimming and planting many of the plants. We learned that his nursery is a great source of many hard-to-find native plants including the big leaf magnolia, sassafras, farkleberry and much more. It's worth a visit to Jason's nursery which was formerly owned by native plant pioneer Lynn Lowry.

Glenn Olsen gave a great talk on "Birds of the Upper Texas Gulf Coast". The bird photos were amazing and Glenn gave much insight into plants that support birds.

Audubon Sr. Sanctuary Steward Flo Hannah gave an entertaining talk on "What Bird Food Looks Like" (a visual presentation of Doug Tallamy's book "Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Your Garden.")

Treeseach Farms, Doremus Nursery and Flo Hannah Native Grasses provide plants of the sale. Native plants at the sale included blue mist flower, scarlet buckeye, red maple, button-bush, paw paw, phlox, blue flag iris, fringe tree, royal and lady fern, gulf muhly grass and many, many more.

The workshop is sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department www.tpwd.org and the Native Plant Society of Texas–Houston Chapter www.npsot.org/houston. and is a fundraiser for grants, school habitats and education.

FIELDTRIP TO STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE PARK

Ah, the things you miss when you don't go on the fieldtrips!!



Dr. Brown & Paul Roling knee deep in poison ivy.

Water Hickory (Carya aquatica) in the background.



Insects on a fence post



NPSOT-H BOARD 2008

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SAUM'S ROAD PRAIRIE FOLLOWUP

Katy Emde and Larry Brown composed a list of some of the plants transplanted during the Saum's Road Prairie plant rescue forays:

ACANTHACEAE

Ruellia humilis
Ruellia nudiflora (Violet Ruellia)

APIACEAE

Eryngium yuccifolium (Rattlesnake Master)

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Asclepias obovata (Pineland Milkweed)
Asclepias verticillata (Whirled Milkweed)
Asclepias viridiflora, Seeds only
Asclepias longifolia (Longleaf Milkweed)
Asclepias viridis

ASTERACEAE

Boltonia diffusa (Smallhead Doll Daisy)
Chrysopsis pilosa (Soft Golden Aster)
Arnoglossum ovatum (Lanceleaf Indian Plantain)
Eupatorium lancifolium
Euthamia sp., gymnospermoides or leptoccephala ??
Helianthus angustifolius (Swamp Sunflower)
Helianthus maximiliani (Maximillian Sunflower)
Liatris acidota
Liatris pycnostachya
Palafoxia sp., hookeriana or rosea??
Pityopsis graminifolia (Silkgrass)
Rudbeckia grandiflora
Rudbeckia texana Syn. R. nitida
Silphium asteriscus var. asteriscus
Silphium gracile (Simpson's Rosinweed)
Solidago missouriensis
Solidago odora
Solidago sempervirens (Seaside Goldenrod)
Solidago tortifolia (Twistleaf Goldenrod)
Symphyotrichum ericoides Syn. Aster ericoides
Vernonia texana (Texas Ironweed)
Vernonia missurica

CAMPANULACEAE

Lobelia puberula (Downy Lobelia)

EUPHORBIACEAE

Tragia betonicifolia (Betonyleaf Noseburn)

CYPERACEAE

Cyperus echinatus (Globe Flatsedge)
Rhynchospora recognita (Globe Beaksedge)

FABACEAE

Dalea multiflora (Roundhead Prairie Clover)
Lespedeza virginica (Slender Lespedeza)

Neptunia lutea (Mimosa vine???)

HYDROPHYLLACEAE

Hydrolea ovata (Blue Waterleaf)

HYPERICACEAE

Hypericum crux-andrea
Hypericum hypericoides
Hypericum densiflorum???

IRIDACEAE

Sisyrinchium sp. (Blue-eyed grass)

LAMIACEAE

Salvia azurea var. grandiflora (Pitcher Sage, Giant Blue Sage)

LILIACEAE

Aletris aurea (Colic Root)

MELASTOMACEAE

Rhexia mariana var. mariana (Maryland Meadow-beauty)

ONAGRACEAE

Gaura lindheimeri

POACEAE

Axonopus compressus
Dichanthelium acuminatum var. acuminatum
Eragrostis elliotii
Panicum bergii
Paspalum floridana (Florida Paspalum)
Paspalum plicatum (Brownseed)
Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)
Sorghastrum nutans (Indiangrass)
Andropogon gerardii (Big Bluestem)

RUBIACEAE

Hedyotis nigricans (Bluet)

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Agalinis sp.
Buchnera Americana (Bluehearts)
Castilleja indivisa (Indian Paintbrush)

VERBENACEAE

Phylla incise (Texas Frog-fruit)

POCKET GARDEN AT RED SCHOOL

NPSOT members Linda Knowles and Deana Roberts have been working with teacher Mary Fallon to create a pocket garden at Red School. Current plans are to install a bench, a small bird bath, and a plaque.

Photos and student's drawings will be used to create an educational display for the April 14, 2009, Flower Show sponsored by Far Corners Garden Study Club. Deana spearheaded a successful effort to get a grant to fund this pocket garden and Mary Fallon's students planted wildflower seeds and native plants.

Pictured (L to R) are Deana Roberts, past president Far Corners Garden Study Club; Liz Gibbs, president Far Corners Garden Study Club; and representatives from Red School.



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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

2009 Levy Park Workdays

RSVP to dknowlespe@aol.com

Last Friday of the month, 9:00 am to noon

No workday in December

January 23

February 27

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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

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For newsletter purposes, Editor Tricia Bradbury asks that newsletter articles, returns & notices be emailed to triciabrad@aol.com, or sent to her address:
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NPSOT-H BOARD MEETINGS 2009

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

Wednesday, February 4

Wednesday, May 6

Wednesday, August 5

Wednesday, September 2

Wednesday, October 7

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 or 281-558-3710.

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	
Group	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	COUNTY _____
Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	PHONE _____
Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	
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Lifetime (one time payment)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	

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