



NPSOT-H TEXAS NATIVE TIMES

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

Winter 2009-2010 (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

After this long hot summer, I'm ready for some cooler weather! I am grateful that we haven't had any hurricanes this year.

In the summer NPSOT newsletter, I included a lot of information about pollinators. Here are some pollinator-friendly native plants:

Goldenrods, american germander, eupatorium varieties, blue mist flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*), obedient plant (fall and spring varieties). These plants can be aggressive if they like where they are planted, and most of these can get tall, a characteristic that is unappreciated in modern gardens. Goldenrods and some of the other plants can be trimmed at times through the year to keep them shorter. They'll bloom later if trimmed.

More controllable pollinator friendly plants include gaillardia, coneflowers, *Lantana urticoides* (formerly *L. horrida*, Texas lantana), *Liatris pycnostachya*, *Liatris acidota*, milkweeds, coral honeysuckle, monarda, and turk's cap. These are just a few of the plants that appeal to pollinators.

Native plants attract pollinators with blooms and

also with plant structures. Plant structures; branches, leaves semi-closed flowers, etc., provide places where pollinators can escape the rain, spend the night and make their homes in or out of. After all, these are the plants that pollinators are familiar with and have coexisted with for thousands of years. The structures of plants from other countries and eco-regions are foreign to native wildlife, and it may take a long time, perhaps many thousands of years, for native wildlife to adapt to them. I've seen solitary bees sleeping in eastern red cedar, in salvia azurea debris, and in many other native plants. With the wide and widening variety of native plants that I have in my yard, I see more interesting insects and native birds every day. What fun!

I would like to thank all the volunteers, planners and attendees of the Wildscapes Workshop. Everyone who planned and volunteered worked very hard to make it happen.

We are busy planning for 2010, your input is needed! Please consider joining us on the NPSOTH Board. Nominations will be held at the October meeting, and elections will be held at the November meeting.

Thanks for being members of the Houston Chapter of NPSOT!



CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS & EVENTS 2009

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

Thursday, November 19
Annual Plant Swap and Social

Thursday, December 17
Holiday Dinner at Kim Son downtown, 2001 Jefferson

Endangered Species Media Project received a grant to bring groups of high school students to Terry Hershey Park and Hermann Park for an invasive species removal project. The students removed many invasive plants and they re-planted with native species such as Virginia wild rye. Several volunteers worked with the students and their science teachers, including Gulf Coast Master Naturalists and Native Plant Society Members Jim Porter and Linda Knowles.



Endangered Species Media Project (ESMP) was founded in 1990 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization to establish a partnership with schools, corporations and private individuals to promote a greater understanding of how the quality of human life can be enhanced by the preservation of our wilderness and wildlife.

ESMP achieves these goals by initiating and supporting publications and programs that foster a perspective toward stewardship of our Earth's ecological treasures while providing hands-on conservation activities for young people.

To learn more, visit <http://www.endangeredspeciesmediaproject.org/ESMP/Home.html>



A New Pocket Prairie Project

Be a volunteer with
Project Blazingstar

Jaime Gonzales, Community Education Manager, of the Katy Prairie Conservancy is leading an exciting project to **"to restore three small but highly visible areas in Hermann Park back to native prairie."** The project is a cooperative effort of the Hermann Park Conservancy, Coastal Prairie Partnership, and local chapters of the Texas Master Naturalists.

Volunteers are needed in all aspects of the project from light work such as seed collection and tossing out seed balls to heavier work such as clearing brush and plant rescue and more.

If you would like to get frequent updates on this project, please reply to Lan at LScompson@yahoo.com and use the subject "Add me to the Project Blazingstar Email List".

Look for project updates at the Coastal Prairie Partnership Website <http://www.coastalprairiepartnership.org/forum/topics/project-blazingstar-a-new>.



Pictured above is a little known plant, *Foresteria ligustrina*, upland swamp privet. It is a very nice shrub that is similar to a ligustrum or privet. It has very nice purple fruit. Linda Knowles will bring some to the November Plant and Seed Swap.

Native Plant Propagators are growing up all over town! Here is Theo Ostler (below) at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center. She grows native grasses and other plants for restorations at the Arboretum. Tom Solomon grows native grasses for prairie restorations at Armand Bayou Nature Center. Lan Shen heads the Gulf Coast Master Naturalist Plant Propagation Committee.



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

Wildscapes Workshop Report

By Linda Knowles

We had a wonderful Wildscapes Workshop (WW) at a new location--Houston Community College West Loop campus. All 125 attendees seemed to enjoy the food and the speakers. Over 110 books were sold and the native plant sale was sold out by the end of the day.

This year we tried to find out who has attended the most WWs.

The winners of "Most Wildscapes Attended" are:

Mary Ann Wagner
Anne O'Neil
Patti Willis
Dan and Patty Lawlor

See photos on page 7.

NPSOT-H BOARD 2009

President	Linda Knowles 281-558-3710 Dknowlespe@aol.com
Vice President Programs Coordinator	OPEN
Secretary	Lan Shen 713-614-7033 L71S@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Chris Povinelli 713-665-0219 Cmpov@swbell.net
Education Coordinator	Kelly Walker 713-863-8034 kellywalker1@houstonisd.org
Field Trip Coordinator	Paul Roling 281-353-7413 PRoling@att.net
Hospitality Coordinator	OPEN
Membership Coordinator	Becky & Sam Smith
Publicity/Outreach Coordinator	Flo Hannah FHannah@wt.net
Newsletter Editor	Tricia Bradbury 281-242-2338 Triciabrad@aol.com
Webmaster	Odie Asscherick masternaturalist@webtv.net

NPSOT-H is a Hit!

By Linda Knowles

On September 22 NPSOT-H was honored to be chosen as a Houston Astros Play Green organization.

We were given free tickets and invited to have our display booth at the game. We had a great time!



NPSOT–H Fall Field Trips—Look what you missed!!

Field trip to Briarbend Park

Attendees included: Paul Roling, Dr. Larry Brown, Bruce Evans, Katy Emde, Jane Reireson, Russell Jeffords, Maureen Goode, Leland Day, Cheryl Marquez, Mary Helen Pritchett, Vick Martinez, Marie Asscherick, Lan Shen, Kelly Walker, Lucy Condon, Flo Hannah, Don Verser, Linda & David Knowles and DD.

We saw *Geum canadense* (white avens), *Ampelopsis cordata*, *Symphyotrichum dumosum* (rice button aster), *Urochloa reptans* (sprawling signalgrass), *Quercus hemisphaerica* (Darlington Oak), *Cyperus thrysiflorus* (southern flatsedge), *Passiflora incarnata* (maypop passionflower), eastern red cedar, shumard red oak, green ash, *Lactuca floridanum*, and *Symphyotrichum dumosum*.



Lactuca floridanum



Field trip to Mound Road

We had a wonderful field trip to Mound Rd. At the end of the road is a preserved natural area that leads down to a stream. Along the road nearby, we found *Liatris elegans* and lots of other unusual plants including scratch daisy (*Croptilon rigidiflora*).

Those attending included Dr. Brown, Paul Roling, Katy Emde, Leland Day, Lan Shen, Linda Knowles, Maureen Goode, Don Verser, Mary Ann Beauchamin, Anton and Peggy Solovuv, Brenda Pennington and Thomas and more.

We saw many wonderful and unusual plants along the side of the road. One vacant lot had muhly grass, baptisia, longspike tridens, downy lobelia, indian grass, prairie dropseed, Florida paspalum, *Aster praetensus*, mountain mint, switchgrass, and much more. Then when we drove home we passed miles of former farm fields and prairies covered in deep rooted sedge and other invasive exotic plants. The



value of these more than 5 acre Mound Road lots seems to be about \$50,000. Perhaps we should all get together and try to buy the best prairie lot as a seed source/prairie resource for education.

Liatris elegans



There is a lot going on at Levy Park!

By Linda Knowles

Workdays are held the Sunday evening after the Chapter Meeting. Please join us! RSVP to Levy Park Coordinator, Mary Edwards marekale@yahoo.com.

Next workday 6-8 pm Sunday November 22.

Mary Edwards and Sheryl Marquez



Cathey Whitener, Lan Shen, and Sheryl Marquez hard at work

Prairie Heritage Day at Brazos Bend State Park

The Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program will present “Prairie Heritage Day” in cooperation with Brazos Bend State Park on Saturday, November 7. This fun-filled, family-oriented event, free with park admission, will engage children and adults alike, while informing about the wonders of our native prairies.

Educational sessions will occur throughout the day, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., covering the prairie’s past, the prairie’s future, benefits of native plants, native bees, raptors, snakes, the endangered Attwater Prairie Chicken, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Texas Watch Programs. Concurrently, there will be opportunities to assist in a demonstration prairie planting and take hikes guided by local experts to learn about Brazos Bend State Park’s ecosystems. Exhibitors from a variety of nature organizations will be on hand with activities, demonstrations and wildlife sure to please all ages.

The Texas Master Naturalist™ Program is sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Brazos Bend State Park is located at 21901 FM 762 in Needville. For more information visit www.coastalprairie.org or call 281-633-7042.

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

Master Gardener Anne O'Neil (pictured at right) stated that what she enjoys the most about Wildscapes Workshops are the lectures and appreciates receiving Master Gardener continuing education credits for them. Anne also attended the state symposium in Houston in 2002, the only year since the first one in 1997 that we did not offer a Wildscapes Workshop (because we were hosting the symposium).



Mary Ann Wagner (above)

At right (pictured L to R) Patti Willis, Dan Lawlor,
and Patty Lawlor

SELLING NATIVE COASTAL PRAIRIE GRASSES

*Ideal for residential and
commercial landscaping*



HANNAH NATIVE GRASSES, INC

713 956-6303 fhannah@wt.net



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL—Houston Chapter

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	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	

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

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