



## August Meeting

Issues discussed:

- ◆ Spring plant sale –getting the plants and or seeds to start growing
- ◆ where to house the plants while they are growing
- ◆ who would be caring for them
- ◆ Keith suggested his greenhouse by winter time.

Michelle has said she will be the secretary as well as the publicity chairman. Martha Byrd has agreed to be Treasurer.

We also talked about various plants that members have at their homes that they could start/grow for future plant sale or trade with other members.

Also mentioned was finding a local native plant grower we could possibly buy from for the plant sale because of the difficulty of growing and maintaining a sufficient quantity of seedlings..

## September 7th

All members are requested to bring plants that they would like to swap with other members. I'll be bringing 4 beauty berries that are currently happily growing in pots. We also have redbud seedlings, everywhere. Certainly some of you may also have too much of something that others may like.

Those that attended the Daphne Prairie field trip are asked to bring any photos you may have. If they are on or could be put on a flash drive, they can be shown to all on the screen.

Keith will also show how to put together a bluebird nestbox. Could be a good fundraiser if we had an 'assembly' get together some time.

## Wildscaping

I've recently received the latest book on Gardening for Wildlife by Kelly Bender so I was interested to also find the following information on the NPSOT website.

Wildscaping is a way of designing your home's landscape to attract and benefit wildlife, especially birds and butterflies, by providing the required food, water, and shelter. The 'food' component can best be provided through the use of plants that are native to your area; after all, wildlife and plants have evolved together for many thousands of years. Wildscaping is also a way each of us can help offset the disappearance of wildlife habitat caused by development.

One of the best resources for wildscaping in Texas is the book **Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife** (Noreen Damude and Kelly Conrad Bender, Texas Parks and Wildlife Press, 1999). This book lists native plants to attract wildlife for each of the 10 ecological regions of Texas, as well as what wildlife you might expect to attract. Other helpful resources are listed below.

Wildscaping information from the **Texas Parks & Wildlife Department:**

- ◆ [Texas Wildscapes DVD](#)
- ◆ [Courses and Workshops](#)
- ◆ [Technical Guidance](#)
- ◆ [Resources](#)
- ◆ [Planning and Layout](#)
- ◆ [Plant Selection and Purchase](#)
- ◆ [Certification as a Texas Wildscape](#)
- ◆ [Certification as a Best of Texas Backyard Habitat](#)
- ◆ [Texas Plant Information Database](#)

From the **National Wildlife Federation:**

- ◆ [Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat](#)

## Meetings/Events

**September 7**

Bring something to swap

**October 7-10**

The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) presents Symposium 2010, an environmental education event, at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.

**Usual meetings. . .**

First Tuesdays, Monthly

Titus County AgriLIFE Extension Center

1708 Industrial Road

Mt. Pleasant, TX



## TBS 2010 Symposium

Bela and I felt this symposium was a great success! We learned a lot not only about bluebirds but other cavity nesters too such as chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches. The talk by Greg Grant on Woodpeckers taught us more about these birds that usually are the primary cavity builders.

Keith's talk was enjoyed by all too, especially his descriptions of unexpected things often found in nest boxes.

The symposium was attended by Native Plant Society people, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Texas Bluebird Society members and others interested improving their yards or land to attract more birds or assist those already around.

A silent auction was held of many things of interest to all, decorated bags, t-shirts, styles of nesting boxes, gift baskets, etc.

## Plant Lists

Keith's idea is to formulate a list, or perhaps website addresses, or a combination of lists that various organizations may have compiled providing info on native plants/shrubs/trees needed for nongame birds Texas Bluebird Society had an on line plant list that could be added to. It would benefit all groups if we provided links between Native Plants, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, TBS and the various bird groups.

So, I went looking for lists and found this: <http://tpid.tpwd.state.tx.us/PlantFind.asp>

This list is the result of entering search criteria for Franklin County, wildlife, non-game birds.

Greg Grant has a good list of native plants for woodpeckers and other fruit and berry producing plants.

To Keith it is MORE important to protect the good Native plants already growing on a property than it is to try and get folks to plant new ones across a property that may not have water for starting new plantings!

He likes the Butterfly plant lists from "North Haven Gardens" as they have "host" and "nectar producing" plants listed. <http://nhg.com/pdf/ButterflyList.pdf>

Some years they mark (with \*) every variety that is a Central Texas "native" plant along with the common cultivars. NHG also has a "hummingbird" <http://nhg.com/pdf/Hummingbird.pdf> and a "wildlife" plant list. <http://nhg.com/AttractBirds.htm>

Bet Zimmerman's Sialis.org, I believe that is correct, has compiled a large list of fruit and berry producing plants and she goes into some detail and lists not only the native and non-natives but also lists if they show up on some states list of

"invasive" species. <http://www.sialis.org/plants.htm>

There are lots of web-sites out there and we just need to look for the best ones to include for these hand outs.

## Shirt Tales

As some of you may know, Bela and I used to run an embroidery business from our home when we lived in Maryland. We brought all the stuff with us when we moved to Texas. Our daughter-in-law is taking over, fortunately, because we would much rather be retired.

I have kept one machine though because I still like to play around with embroidering this and that. So, I have finally worked up a design I'm pleased with for Lake Country NPSOT.

Bela and I wore our shirts to the Bluebird Symposium. These are a rather light-weight, soft, wrinkle and shrink resistant, poly-cotton, royal blue, polo shirts. They come in ladies and mens styles. I put the design on the sleeve of Bela's shirt but on left chest on mine. We could put names on as well. if you'd like them personalized.

Below is a computer representation of what the design looks like. If y'all are interested, I can work up some pricing—I'm sure it would be under \$20 per shirt. This is not a money making deal for us—just a way to identify ourselves when attending other functions, spread the



## Building Nest Boxes

From Keith Kridler: Suggesting a project for Lake Country NPSOT

Cavity nesting Birds are a LOT like spring blooming plants. IF you want flowers and birds in your yard next spring you actually need to build and install the nest boxes this fall/winter and plant many of the flowering plants this fall in order to enjoy blooms come spring.

it is now time to build the nestboxes and make plans for helping other folks get involved with the birds next year.

When you help children build nestboxes you normally make an impact on the whole family because once a family has a nestbox installed in their yard and they get a family of birds nesting inside, then ALL the members of the family will end up going out to see the eggs and then the young birds over the next several weeks!

IF a CHILD has built their own nestbox then they will be proud and want to show "their" nesting birds to grand parents and cousins when they come visit. They will show them to other friends that come visit! BUT the nestboxes have to be made to where these children can easily open and monitor these nestboxes.



### Chapter Officers

President ... Laurie Skene  
Vice President ... Keith Kridler  
Secretary ... Michelle Lawler  
Treasurer ... Martha Byrd  
Newsletter/email ... Dorothy Szepesi  
Publicity ... Michelle Lawler

*The mission of The Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote research, conservation and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example.*