

## Trinity Forks Chapter Calendar Year 2006

**T**rinity Forks Chapter strives to fulfill the purpose of NPSOT through **EDUCATION**, **OUTREACH**, and **EXAMPLE** by being actively involved on the local and state levels in promoting, identifying, protecting, and preserving native plants (NPs) for public and private landscapes uses. Conveying our goals to the public evolves through every aspect of the organization's activities.

**MEETINGS:** Trinity Forks Chapter (TF) held 8 meetings in Denton, Texas at Texas Woman's University (TWU), on the 4th Thurs January - May, August, September and October.

**EDUCATION via Chapter Programs:** displays of current news/magazine articles, plant materials, information, & programs related to NPs. Theme for '06 was *From the ground up:* Howard Garrett, *Dirty Secrets Revealed* (soil); Betty Dunn from Boerne, *NICE!*; Dr. Ken Dickson, UNT, *Water Needs of Texas Native Plants*; Don Kenney, PFF, *Plant Roots and Soil Microorganisms: The Perfect Couple*; Dr. Al Knauf, TWU, *Soil Science for Plant Lovers*; Ice Cream Social in the TWU Gardens with a tour of the Benny Simpson Memorial Garden; Dr. Camelia Maier, TWU, *Native Plant Fruits & Reproduction*; Dr. George Diggs, Barney Lipscomb & Robert George, BRIT, *Flora of East Texas, Vol. I.*, program and book-signing.

**EDUCATION via Field trips:** Cedar Ridge Preserve (Trout Lily walk), Jim Varnum; BRIT (herbarium collection & library); visit Texas champion pecan tree near Weatherford; tour Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA) (prairie restoration & bison project), Dr. Ken Steigman, UNT; tour Lewisville ISD Outdoor Learning Area (LISDOLA), Steve Spurger; tour Wilma Haggard's wildflowers in a native oak forest, Denton; tour Tierra Cedar Golf Course, Arlington; tour participating NICE! Nurseries. Member led field trips in Cooke, Montague and Wise counties to see shooting stars, trout lilies, funnel lilies.

**EDUCATION via Professional Activities:** Members taught Botany and Environmental Science courses at TWU, UNT & NCTC, emphasizing native plants and encouraging student participation in TF field trips; credit was offered to students who participated in TF programs. Member has NSF grant (UNT) to research symbiotic nitrogen fixation in legumes, and supported six graduate students this year. Member serves as science consultant for Thomsen Foundation (Montague County), conducted NP and plant habitat research over the 600 acre wildflower preserve & provided field trips for teachers, students and various plant-related organizations.

**EDUCATION via Members to Public:** Members gave NP programs (conferences, lectures, seminars and field trips) to at least fifteen organizations in Denton, Cooke, Dallas, Hamilton, Montague & Wise Counties. Members collected herbarium specimens for TWU and BRIT.

**EDUCATION via chapter history:** Historian has been organizing chapter history and reworking scrapbooks into accessible formats, both physical and electronic.

**OUTREACH to children and families via Outdoor Learning Centers:** School gardens supported with chapter-donated NPs, time and expertise include Sam Houston ES, Pecan Creek ES, Hodge ES, Newton-Rayzor ES, Ann Windle ES, Borman ES, Calhoun MS, and LLELA. Member taught a 5-week science summer camp using donated NPs at Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home.

**OUTREACH via NICE! Program:** "Plant of the Season" began in spring 2006 with 15 committee members and 11 retail nurseries

participating in 7 cities. Seasonal articles are published in 5 news media and distributed to eight organizations. Information pages offered to each nursery to hand out with NICE! plants purchased. TF has offered to share our NICE! program with other area NPSOT chapters and is prepared to coordinate this effort.

**OUTREACH via Meetings:** An outreach table at each chapter meeting displays members' activities in the community & chapter publicity. Members also represented TF at LLELA Trinity River Fair, Sanger HS Science Expo, and Keep Denton Beautiful (KDB) Redbud Days Festival.

**OUTREACH via media:** Members wrote 30+ articles which were published in *Denton Record Chronicle*, and *NPSOT News*. TF *Native Plant Press* is sent monthly to members, recent guests, and speakers; also available at public events, NICE! nurseries, and on TF website. Publicity chair regularly submits meeting and event announcements to 21 regional news media. TF maintains a Yahoo list serve to facilitate news sharing among members, and a second list for board members.

**OUTREACH to visitors:** Newcomers/guests are sent a letter and written invitation to join NPSOT/TF plus 3 months of complimentary newsletters/meeting notices. Total membership is 93 as of 9/2006. Average attendance at meetings is about 55.

**OUTREACH via donations:** TF donated over 225 plants for eight school gardens, environmental learning centers, and other public garden projects, and \$200 to Calhoun MS for their Outdoor Learning Center. TF will donate NPSOT Symposium Proceedings to TWU & UNT libraries.

**Setting an EXAMPLE via plant rescue:** Members worked to ID and rescue NPs on 160 acres being developed in Southlake. TF has offered to work with other area NPSOT chapters to develop frequent plant rescue opportunities and is prepared to coordinate this effort. TF continues working with TXDOT to encourage mowing practices that preserve NPs on county and state roadsides.

**Setting an EXAMPLE via Leadership Development:** Chapter leaders attended state board meetings. Members attended plant-related lectures at Austin College, BRIT, OSU, TWU Science Seminars, UNT Environmental Series, Elm Fork Master Naturalist Training, Joint Symposium of NPSOT & LBJWC, and will attend annual NPSOT Symposium-San Antonio.

**Setting an EXAMPLE via Plant Sales:** In spring, sold 600-700 member-provided plants & 92 taken on consignment, including over 56 species. 24+ members worked part or all day, in addition to those who brought plants. New signage with photo and growing tips were made for most species and aprons were obtained to set the workers apart from the crowd for better service to customers. Provided Kids' Korner, an activity table for kids to learn about NPs while their parents shop. Net receipts were 30% more than 2005. Fall plant sale will be expanded this year and will include both member-grown NPs and consignments from 3 growers.

**Setting an EXAMPLE in the community:** Member worked with her own neighborhood association (500 homes) to redesign neighborhood entry landscapes and to eventually convert to xeriscapes using mostly perennial NPs. Member serves on KDB's Native Plant Committee by designing NP demonstration gardens and selecting "Water Smart Yard of the Month." Member identifies NPs for birding group each month and collaborates with NCTC to maintain NP checklist in Cooke and Montague counties.

Submitted by Cynthia Maguire, President; [c.maguire@charter.net](mailto:c.maguire@charter.net)