

Trinity Forks Chapter Activity Report September 1, 2006-August 31, 2007

Trinity Forks Chapter strives to fulfill the mission 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 landscape uses. This is achieved through chapter-wide activities as well as individual efforts.

General: Chapter has 89 members as of 8/07, holds 8 meetings per yr in Denton, TX at Texas Woman's University (TWU), on the 4th Thurs Jan. - May, Sept. and Oct., plus an August Picnic - Ice Cream Social. Average meeting attendance about 50 including visitors. Average bank balance \$4000.

Chapter-wide Activities

EDUCATION via Chapter Programs: Theme for '07 was Influencing our Community to Grow Native.

Natives In the 'Hood: 3 TF members described experiences mentoring and adopting neighborhood (public) sites for NP landscapes;

A Nursery's Perspective -- Panel Discussion by owners of 2 of our NICE! nurseries that emphasize NPs;

Blooming Denton County Roadsides, Pat Haigh of TxDOT;

Private Landscape Designers focusing on NPs, David "Native Dave" and Christy Ilfrey;

Preview of the Fall NPSOT Symposium, Phyllis Dolich;

A Public Garden's Perspective, Paul Cox, Asst. Director. San Antonio Botanical Garden;

Bush Turnpike Landscape Project; designer Bryan Dennis and Tony Lucido, NTTA Landscape Manager;

EDUCATION via Field Trips: Chapter toured 7 of our NICE! Nurseries in 2 separate trips;

Trout Lily Walk, Cedar Ridge Preserve, Jim Varnum;

City of Denton Clear Creek Natural Heritage Area, Dorothy Thetford.

Blackland prairie spring wildflower walk on Cunningham property in Wise Co.

OUTREACH via NICE! Program: "Plant of the Season" continues with 15 committee members, seasonal articles distributed to 5 news media & 8 organizations, and information pages offered to each nursery to hand out with NICE! plants purchased. **Added 12th retail nursery, now in 7 cities, 5 counties. TF mentored North Central chapter starting their NICE! program,** and coordinates featured plants of the season among chapters for maximum regional impact. 2 members dug >100 gayfeather corms to distribute to our NICE! nurseries. Community raffle of donated nature print raised \$600 for long term funding of NICE! program.

OUTREACH via media: TF *Native Plant Press* is sent 8 times per year to members, recent guests, and speakers; also available at public events and NICE! nurseries. *Book festival* during May meeting displayed NP books & literature, & is planned as semi-annual event. Distributed free copies of *Invasive Plants of No. America* at chapter meetings and public events. Publicity chair submits meeting and event announcements to 21 regional news media. TF Chapter Yahoo list serve facilitates communication among members.

OUTREACH via donations: approx. 200 plants to support school and public gardens at RRLSP, Calhoun MS, & Keep Denton Beautiful. TF donated NPSOT Symposium Proceedings to TWU & UNT libraries. Also donated:

\$700 for Gertrude Gibson Memorial Bench on TWU campus, honoring NPSOT founding member

\$500 to BRIT to expand Internet Catalog of Texas NPs

\$500 to Keep Denton Beautiful (KDB) for city NP gardens

\$200 of NP reference books for RRLSP Interp Center

\$185 for NP for Calhoun MS Outdoor Learning Lab

\$50 of wildflower seed for Denton Co. roadsides

\$500 to TWU for Redbuds to be planted on campus

CHAPTER sets EXAMPLES: Ray Roberts Lake SP (RRLSP) Interpretive Center: In a new project this year, members volunteered innumerable hours advising Park Naturalist on NP species to include in themed demonstration gardens at new Interpretive Center, led field trips to ID & tag NPs for future collection, helped dig & move plants, donated member-grown plants, supervised installation & maintenance of gardens, donated photos for album of plants found at park. **Received letter of thanks & recognition from TPWD.**

Exclusively Native Plant Sales: Semi-annual sales in April & Oct. each sold 600-800 member-provided plants &/or consignment plants from nurseries including over 50 species. At least 20 members worked part or all day for both sales, set apart from the crowd by **distinctive aprons** w/ chapter logo. Thanks partly to **laminated signage** with photo and growing tips, combined proceeds from these 2 sales were 2X the total from previous year. Provided Kids' Korner at spring sale, an activity table for kids to learn about NPs while their parents shop. Also mentored Collin Co. Chapter on holding plant sales.

At Meetings: Chapter leaders attended all state board meetings, served on state nominating committee. Many members attended annual NPSOT Symposium-San Antonio. Member donated items for auction yielding \$300 to NPSOT.

Individual Member Volunteer Activities

EDUCATION: Members established weekly ethnobotany club for home school students including labs & fields trips on plant ID, propagation, gardening technics. Members gave presentations at teacher workshops, M. Naturalist classes, science clubs, garden clubs, community festival, RRLSP campfire programs. Members led 5 plant ID tours for schools, day camp, teachers, & on 10 birdwalks. Members wrote 45+ articles published in *Denton Record Chronicle*, *NPSOT News*, community newspapers, & newsletters, and contributed photos for 2 articles by prof. news staff.

OUTREACH: Member volunteers plant taxonomy services to BRIT, creates county check lists. Members collected herbarium specimens for TWU and BRIT; conducted plant ID surveys on 10 private properties in 3 counties.

EXAMPLE: Gave time, sweat, and expertise to planning &/or establishing educational gardens at 3 schools, and volunteer designed an addition to native woodland landscape at shopping mall. Member converted 2 of her own neighborhood association's traditional entry landscapes to xeriscapes using mostly NPs. Developed media presentation given at 2 homeowner assoc. on using NPs at entry landscapes.

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