

Trinity Forks Chapter Activity Report September 1, 2007-August 31, 2008

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 94 members as of 8/08, 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 Ice Cream Social. Average meeting attendance about 50 including visitors. Average bank balance \$5000.

Chapter-wide Activities

EDUCATION via Chapter Programs & Field Trips:

Began each meeting with quick tip on using a selected Native in the home garden.

Programs the past 12 months :

Botanical Amusings – plant naming, Jim Varnum;
Rainwater Harvesting & Drip Irrigation, Rodney Love;
Blooming County Roadsides, Pat Haigh of TxDOT;
Prairie Grasses and Pasture Restoration, Steven Ray, Denton USDA NRCS;
A Public Garden's Influence on Native Plant Use, Paul Cox, Asst. Director. San Antonio Botanical Garden;
Bush Turnpike Native Plant Landscape Project; designer Bryan Dennis and Tony Lucido, NTTA Landscape Manager;
Photography for the Average Nature Lover, Kathy Saucier;
Native Plant Research at TWU, Dr. Camelia Maier

Field Trips to:

City of Denton Clear Creek Natural Heritage Area for spring wildflowers, Dorothy Thetford.
Tour of 5 members yards to see examples of NP landscapes.

OUTREACH via NICE! Program: "Plant of the Season" continues with 10 retail nurseries in 6 cities, 14 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.

OUTREACH via media: Members appeared on local cable TV program to promote NP's.

TF Native Plant Press newsletter 8 issues per year sent to members, recent guests, and speakers; also available at public events and NICE! nurseries.

Semi-annual Book festival during chapter meeting to display NP books & literature.

TF Chapter Yahoo discussion list facilitates communication among members.

OUTREACH via Exclusively Native Plant Sale:

Sold about 900 member-provided plants &/or consignment plants of over 50 species, aided by laminated signage with photo and growing tips. At least 25 members worked part or all day, set apart from the crowd by distinctive aprons w/ chapter logo.

Participated with information booth and plant sale at the Garden Info Fest held by Master Gardeners.

At Meetings: Chapter leaders attended all state board meetings, served on state nominating & strategic planning committees. At least 15 members attended annual NPSOT Symposium-Georgetown.

OUTREACH via donations:

\$500 worth of Redbud Trees to TWU's campaign to reintroduce redbud trees across the campus;
Plants for school and state park gardens.
NPSOT Symposium Proceedings to TWU & UNT libraries.

CHAPTER sets EXAMPLES:

Ray Roberts Lake SP (RRLSP) recognized chapter for our role in establishing native plant demonstration gardens at interpretive center; member designed the gardens, then managed members and Master Naturalist volunteers to dig & move plants from the wild, install those & member-grown plants, & supervises ongoing maintenance.

Planted wildflower seeds on recently repaired highway embankment in Denton.

Individual Member Volunteer Activities

EDUCATION:

Contributed 70 articles for newspapers, magazines, local & state newsletters, & internet -web gardening library.

Gave 34 presentations on wildflowers, NPs &/or habitat to school groups, teachers & parents, science fairs, preschool nature class, scout troops, garden clubs, & at community events.

Led 28 plant ID tours & hikes for schools, teachers, scout troops, general public at city parks, nature centers, RRLSP.

Assisted with wildflower curriculum for local ISD Science Journal.

Consulted with Eagle Scout project to install native plant water garden at RRLSP.

Advised Nature Area visitor center on NP reference books, also advised on design & plant selection for native landscape at Center.

OUTREACH:

Member volunteers plant taxonomy services to BRIT, creates county check lists;

Member conducted plant ID surveys on 8 private properties

EXAMPLE:

Gave time, sweat, and expertise to planning &/or establishing educational gardens at 3 schools, non-profit organizations.

Member worked with neighborhood association to convert 4 more entry landscapes to xeriscapes using mostly NPs.

ADVOCACY:

Member consulted on city tree regulations.

Several members valiantly but unsuccessfully tried to prevent city from destroying member-installed native plant landscape from medians, but did relocate some plants to city park demonstration garden.

Submitted by Cathy Lustgarten, President;
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