



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

September 2003

From the Prez....

A New Season

Since our last meeting in May, **black-eyed Susans**, **Indian blankets**, **standing cypresses**, **basket flowers** and **diamond point primroses** have bloomed and gone to seed. Now **Turk's cap**, **rose pavonia**, **flame acanthus** and **cypress vine** brighten my garden. **Carolina snailseed** berries are turning red and **American beautyberries** are showing their lovely magenta color in clusters on long arching stems.

Summer temperatures have soared but native plants have survived. Through the hottest days, tall sturdy **sunflowers** have bloomed across the countryside delighting butterflies and bumblebees. As late summer edges closer to fall, our roadsides provide beautiful scenes of native grasses like **little bluestem** and **bushy bluestem**. **Snow on the prairie**, **eryngo**, **Maximilian sunflower**, **bitterweed**, **saw leaf daisy** and **goldenrod** offer showy patches of white, purple and gold. **Wild morning glories** and **trumpet creepers** clamor everywhere with profuse blooms of pink and orange.

Along with the wildflowers of late summer, come slightly cooler days and nights as the monarchs drift southward towards their winter home. The cicadas' song of summer will soon fade and the hummingbirds and chimney swifts will join the monarchs in their migration as the **sumacs** flash brilliant scarlet leaves, **persimmons** ripen, squirrels gather nuts and acorns and knobby green horse apples fall to the ground.

I hope everyone has had a good summer and is ready for a new season. It's time to plant wildflower seeds for next spring's blooms, take late summer cuttings and divide overgrown clumps of perennials. September is here, school has started and soon our Trinity Forks chapter will meet again. Bring a friend and your ideas for naming the newsletter and join us for our September meeting.

— Marilyn Blanton

Our September Program. . . .

"Pollination Partnerships" is the topic for this month's program presented by Brenda Swirczynski, a Science/ Math Educator in Birdville I.S.D

Brenda holds a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies and M.S. in Environmental Science, both from the University of North Texas.

She has over ten year's experience in science education, teaching in both the elementary and university classroom, as well as serving as Education Coordinator for the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) in Fort Worth. During her time at BRIT, she worked as part of a team developing an interactive exhibit titled Pollination Partnerships, which is now on display at the University of North Texas. She will be speaking about the importance of this exhibit which focuses on the crisis facing pollinators and the vital role they play in our lives. After her presentation, the audience will be invited to tour the hands-on exhibit.

Brenda's interests include stream ecology, entomology and projects with experiential science education. A Master Composter, she has years of experience with vermi (worm) and traditional composting methods. Brenda currently serves as Education Program Advisor for the Texas Society of Ecological Restoration.

The Annual "One-page Wonder" is reprinted below. 2003 has been a great year with many activities and accomplishments. As president of the Trinity Forks Chapter, I would like to congratulate our chapter and thank everyone for all they have done! Keep up the good work!

–Marilyn

Blanton

Calendar of Events

THE TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER MEETS THE 4TH THURSDAY OF JAN–MAY AND SEPT–OCT AT 7 P.M. IN ROOM 110 OF THE UNTEESAT BUILDING (AVE C & HICKORY) IN DENTON, TEXAS.

Thurs, Sep 25, 7:00 p.m. _ TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER MEETING at UNT EESAT Building, Room 110. *“Pollination Partnerships”* will be presented by **Brenda Swirczynski**, M.S., and followed by a tour of the exhibit of the same name now on display in the EESAT building. _

Sat, Oct 11, 1–6p.m. _ It’s Field Trip time again!

We will visit several sites near Muenster. First, Trinity Forks member **Kay Broyles'** wildscaped yard -- about 1.3 acres and now a fairly mature 4-5 years old. Other possibilities are a neighbor's smaller wildscape, a possible state champion Bois d'Arc tree, a pocket prairie, and a scenic drive north of St. Jo. Meet in Denton at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant parking lot (I-35 & Hwy 380) at 1:00pm sharp; return around 6:00pm. Call **Mike Mizell**, 940-382-8551, for details or to check on changes. _

Thurs–Sun, October 16–19, 2003 _ NPSOT Symposium in Fredericksburg, TX. Headquarters for this year's Symposium will be the Sunday House Hotel. There are 60 rooms set aside and other motels and B&B's nearby. If you want to go, make plans ASAP—rooms are filling up fast! Information is available at www.npsot.org. _

Sat, Nov 1, 8 a.m. til 4 p.m. _ Fall Plant Sale at the Denton Civic Center. We will be participating in a Fall Plant Sale sponsored by the Denton Council of Garden Clubs. We will set up Friday evening from 4 to 7 p.m. The sale begins at 9 a.m. Saturday. Get your plants ready now and come join

the fun! This is a great way to gain some good exposure for our chapter, and spread the word about native plants to a broad audience at the same time.

Sat, Nov 8, 2:00 p.m. _ A Walk Through The Woods at Cross Timbers Park. Look for more details in next month's newsletter. _

Do you have news or events to share? Send it to **Cynthia Maguire** at c.maguire@charter.net. or call her at 940/594-6555. _

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Join the Native Plant Society of Texas—Trinity Forks Chapter

If you wish to join (or renew) indicate your category of membership, then clip and mail this application with the appropriate remittance to: **NPSOT, P.O. Box 891, Georgetown, TX 78627.**

Name: _____ () Student \$15 () Group \$35
Address: _____ () Senior \$15 () Patron \$50
City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____ () Individual \$20 () Benefactor \$100
Phone: _____ Email: _____ () Family \$25 () Corporation \$1000

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

Naming the Newsletter

The board has asked for YOUR HELP to come up with a distinctive name for our newsletter. Put on your thinking cap and give us your ideas!!! The plan is to take suggestions at this month's meeting, add them to the list already gathered below and vote at that time.

Trinity Forks Native News
Trinity Tributaries
Native News
Trinity Forks News
Wild About Natives
Go Native, Grow Native
The Shooting Star
Trinity Forks Native Plant Press
Trinity Forks Native Press
Prairie Perennial
Grasslands Gazette
Trinity Tribune
Taproot
Xeri-Scoop
Going Native
Roots
Root Stock
Seed Scribblings
Petal Power
The Trinity Forks Shooting Star Reporter
The Shooting Star Reporter
The Blackberry Branch
The Grapevine Line

Education and Outreach!

If you know of teachers, educators, administrators and/or parents who are interested in developing native plant gardens for educational purposes are encouraged to contact the Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. These gardens could focus on studying the interactions between various native plants and animals such as birds, butterflies, bees, dragonflies, and frogs or toads. Educators who register an educational native plant garden with the Chapter will receive planning assistance, plant lists, educational suggestions and FREE plants!! A third school, **Willis Lane Elementary**, has registered to receive assistance from Trinity Forks members. Now is the time to begin planning for the Fall. To register or obtain additional information, please contact **Dorothy Thetford** or **Garrett Brown**. _

The TWU Herbarium is a collection of specimens collected between the years of 1909 and 1949 with significant educational value. Dr. Camellia Maier is working to acquire a grant from the National Science Foundation to fund the documentation of the herbarium and establish the information on-line. In 2001 the Trinity Forks Chapter donated funds to help purchase herbarium cabinets and has expressed our continuing support of the university's efforts in a letter of support to the National Science Foundation. _

Native Plant Society of Texas
Trinity Forks Chapter
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