



Trinity Forks Native Plant Press

The Newsletter of the Trinity Forks Chapter,
Native Plant Society of Texas

October 2005

From the Prez...

Busy, busy, busy. . . .

With a title like that, you might think I am looking for sympathy (and it would be okay if I got some!) but that's not quite what I have in mind. Actually, **YOU**—the **Members of Trinity Forks** are who I am thinking of as I write this final president's column for 2005. Many of us spent considerable time last month assembling our Annual Report (reprinted herein on page 2) to the state office. It is an impressive list! Our members range far and wide in their talents and desire to "tell the native truth" as **Cathy Lustgarten** so eloquently puts it. Just assembling the report is a big job—actually doing all that work boggles the mind. And yet, that is exactly what our chapter does, year in and year out. (By the way, Historian **Harriet Horton** has a plan for a better way to get all the grassroots information next year—stay tuned for more details!) I am pleased and proud to be a leader in such distinguished company! After you read our report I think you will agree that as a chapter we are busy, busy, *busy*!

I am less proud of the several print errors in the last issue of the NPP which need correcting here and now. An error of omission was the lack of mention of two fabulous flavors at our ice cream social in August: **Steve Spurger**'s orange sherbet, and **Chris & Curt Stogsdill**'s chocolate ice cream. I also mistakenly identified the large, white-flowering plant in **Dorothy**'s garden as a vine, **Jimsonweed** (*Datura stramonium*). In fact, it was not a vine (a fact readily apparent to the most casual observer) but rather, *Datura wrightii*, commonly called **Angel Trumpet**. Please don't ask me how a reasonably intelligent (?) woman convinces herself she saw a vine! My apology for these (and other) mistakes. Perhaps it is well that I am retiring as Newsletter Editor with this edition of the *Native Plant Press*. Clearly, my mind for details has wandered off somewhere. . . .

Looking ahead, this month we will hold the election of officers for the 2006 program year. The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers:

President—Cynthia Maguire

Vice President & President-Elect—Cathy Lustgarten

Secretary—Lon Turnbull

Treasurer—Caroline Polliard

As always, nominations may also be offered from the floor. Please join us on Thursday, October 27th at 6:30 p.m. for a fun and informative program on propagating plants and, as always, please bring a friend!

Cynthia Maguire ☞

Our October Program

Plant Propagation, with an Emphasis on Propagation from Seed is the title of our member and UNT professor **Dr. Rebecca Dickstein**'s program this month. She will present information on the biology of plant reproduction, where to obtain native plant seeds, and how to gather your own seeds. Becca will discuss seed germination and seedling development, followed by grow-out and acclimation to garden conditions. Other methods of plant propagation including division of roots, stem cuttings, and propagation by offshoots will also be presented. All this and photos of Becca and her husband **Lon Turnbull**'s experiments and efforts in gardening with native and adapted plants from their backyard in Denton.

☞ ☞ ☞

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

2005 Fall Plant Sale

soon to be

In Session

*Trinity Forks Chapter of NPSOT, Presiding
All ye having surplus native plants to offer,
draw nigh and be seen*

When: **Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
(set up at **9 a.m.**)

Where: **Wild Bird Center** (on the sidewalk)
1601 Brinker Rd #108, Denton

Can you work at the sale? Do you have plants or seeds to donate? Have a wish list of plants to buy?
... *tell **Cathy L.***

Do you have a friend interested in native plants? Do you have empty flats/trays to carry purchases?
... *bring 'em!*

Workers please bring sunscreen, hat, water; park in rear. Please **label each pot** with plant ID.

Do you solemnly swear to spread your love of native plants, tell the native truth, and share the joy of gardening with natives? This sale's for you!

Many thanks to **Owen Yost** and **Nancy Collins** for allowing us to hold our sale at their store.

Questions, comments, suggestions, or bloomin' good ideas? Contact **Cathy Lustgarten**, 972-306-1088 or drgoodrad@comcast.net. ☞

Trinity Forks Chapter 2005 Annual Report

Chapter meetings: Trinity Forks (TF) held 8 meetings at Texas Woman's University (TWU) in 2005 • Educational 5 minutes to begin programs (named *Early Bird Special*—don't be late!) to provide a plant-related demo, along with an assignment. Topics included *Seed planting, Seedlings, Rosettes, Plant Pressing, Herbarium Specifications, Tree leaf ID & Propagation* • Sent every new member and visitor home with a live native plant (NP) • Educational exhibits were displayed at each meeting •

Recent Programs/Speakers included *Native Plant Foods* (**Kathy Saucier** and **Joan Cross**—9/04); *Flora of the Galapagos Islands vs. Flora of North Central Texas* (**Dr. Camelia Maier**, TWU—10/04); *Backyard Wildlife Habitats: Butterflies, Birds & Botany* (**Bonnie Bradshaw**, Texas Discovery Gardens—1/05); *Prairies and Grasses* (**Russell Stevens**, Noble Foundation—2/05); *Crystals in Plants* (**Dr. Howard Arnott**, UTA—3/05); *Big Bend: A Naturalist's Dream* (**Bill Lindemann**, Author and Past-President of NPSOT—4/05); *The Cross Timbers Across Time: A History of Cross Timbers Forest Plants* (**Dr. George Diggs**, Austin College—5/05); August Ice cream social (new this year); *Landscaping with Native Trees* (**John Cooper**, TAMU Agricultural Extension Agent, Denton—9/05); *Plant Propagation* (**Dr. Becca Dickstein**, UNT—10/05) •

Education, Outreach, Community Involvement: Education Committee prepared a “Name That _____” display & game each month using the previous month's Early Bird topic to quiz attendees' knowledge • “Question Pot” was available for ?s from members and guests, which Education Committee answered in TF newsletter • TF sponsors Benny J. Simpson Memorial Garden on TWU campus • Members judged TWU Regional Science Fair where a 6-yr old won best of class for her work investigating plant pigments in mostly NPs; she presented her work at our May meeting • 6 members were active in NP Committee (NPC) at Keep Denton Beautiful (KDB); one received outstanding KDB chairperson award, another served as judge for KDB Water-smart Yard of the Month, some sowed \$3000 of wildflower seed in 3 locations; all 6 helped design and install 3 NP demonstration gardens and other duties including garden workdays totaling over 225 hours donated • Invited local nurseries to provide a list of their native plant inventory to our members • Member persuaded Hope Lutheran Church to use native turf grasses on new property and gave two NP presentations to church members • Members gave numerous NP programs for Denton County organizations, conferences, and schools in addition to lectures, seminars, and fieldtrips in Hamilton, Cooke, Montague, and Dallas Counties, i.e., to Master Naturalist Assoc-Denton, Master Gardener Training Session-Dallas, TPWD personnel, Silver Lakes HOA-Bowie, Annual Spring Open House in Hico, and NCTC Environmental Biology class lecture in Bowie • Member coordinated 21 volunteers to staff NPSOT booth at TX Assn. of Nursery & Landscapers (TAN) Convention to promote native plants and the NICE program in the nursery trade • 3 Members set up/tore down booth • Members arranged to borrow NPs to decorate TAN booth • Member directs research & education for Thomsen Foundation • Members guide 5th grade nature hikes to ID birds and NPs at Thomsen Foundation • Members teach botany & environmental biology at TWU, UNT and NCTC, emphasizing NPs and use field trip experiences, including participation in prescribed burns and other NP restoration projects • TWU, UNT and NCTC professors offer students credit for attending our meetings • Several members collected herbarium specimens for BRIT and collaborated with TWU and NCTC-Gainesville regarding monitoring, researching and collecting as needed • Several members were invited to ID native plants along Denton's Clear Creek Natural Heritage Trails, Ray Roberts Lake, LBJ Grasslands, and Cross Timbers Park •

Outreach to Families and Children: Members donated time-labor-expertise-teaching-materials to help outdoor learning centers (OLC) at Rayzor & Houston Elem Schools, new grounds at Lee Elem & encouraging student science projects with NPs • Members coordinate efforts of environmental education with DISD's OLCs • Members created **TREE** (Teaching & Reaching w/ Environmental Education) for Denton ISD, contributing over 250 hrs attending meetings, keeping records, making contacts, planning, planting & tending school gardens • TF is establishing a **Trinity Forks Science Fair Award** to be given to students who enter NP-related projects in Denton area schools each spring • Kids' Korner (potting table) at spring plant sale where each child took home a free potted wildflower • Family-oriented homemade ice cream social in August with educational & fun games •

Fundraising: TF held 2 plant sales, spring and fall • Spring 2005 sale raised *50% more than previous high!* • TF accepted 42 trees from Schoebel's to grow for sales and donations to school gardens • Ruffled NPs and other items at several meetings • Current checking account balance = \$2597.71 as of 8/31/05 •

Donations: TF partnered w/ Painted Flower Farm, a grower, to supply NP stock for grower's use to sell, as well as provide material for our plant sales • Donated plants for landscaping: public, educational, &/or demonstration gardens to Sam Houston and Newton Rayzor Elem. Schools of Denton; Highland Village Elem.; Rann Elem. of Decatur; Corps of Engineers office in Lewisville • Donated \$500 to TWU Herbarium for a scanner to digitize the collection and make it available online • Donated \$250 to KDB to support NP Committee's demo gardens of NPs • Members donated time and plants for first ever Decatur Heritage Park Festival to raise money for a prairie restoration park •

Chapter-Sponsored Fieldtrips include Denton's Meritt Bois-D-Arc Ranch to see bison ranching and pastures with native grasses • Cooke County's shooting stars • Remnant prairies, in Grayson County • Linear gilgai soil formations and a champion Bois d'Arc tree in Muenster/St. Jo area • Montague County's Thomsen Foundation • LBJ National Grasslands • Prairies in Ft Worth • Clymer Meadow, Parkhill Prairie & Paul Matthews Prairie in Collin & Hunt Counties • Texas Discovery Gardens and Benny Simpson Garden in Dallas' Fair Park • Denton's Cross Timbers Park Tour • Trout Lily walk at Cedar Ridge Park • Gardens at Athens & 3 private properties • Fall tree tour of TWU campus •

Chapter History: Historian organized, interviewed, etc. to fill in gaps in recorded chapter and organizational history • History displays were set up for each chapter meeting featuring items of educational value and interest • History column, *Digging into Our Roots*, appears regularly in chapter newsletter •

Publicity & Publications: Eight issues of Trinity Forks *Native Plant Press* (NPP) mailed to members, recent guests, past speaker & distributed at special events • Email reminders of chapter events & publicity about meetings were sent to several area newspapers • Chapter website was established • Plans have been formulated to link KDB website to TF webpage for local NP access • TF Education Committee updated and added several specialty-garden plant lists to the chapter's recommended NPs for Denton County. Copies were available at meetings, plant sales and website • Several members wrote NP articles for publication in *Denton Record Chronicle* (DRC), *NPSOT News*, *TF NPP*, *Aubrey's Town Charter* newspaper, KDB newsletter and website and TX Master Naturalist website • DRC wildflower articles provided NPSOT-TF contact info • Education Committee added *Question Pot* article to NPP to answer questions received at chapter meetings •

Membership: 85 current dues-paying members for 2005 • TF Board included 11 members • Meeting attendance averaged 50-65, including guests • Membership applications were distributed at many events •

Education Is Exciting!

As our season winds down, our prairies are winding up. Yes, in all their glory, they are displaying our native grass heads for us to enjoy. Why not check out the Display Table to see if you can "Name that Grass" at our October meeting? See you on the 27th!

My thanks to **Rachel Biggerstaff, Brigid Corbett, Elinor Hughes, Kathy Saucier, and Chris Stogsdill** for all of their volunteered energy directed toward education. What a committee!!! 'Twas fun.

Education Chair, Dorothy Thetford ☪

CALENDAR

Friday-Saturday, Oct 21-22 ☪ **NPSOT State Symposium** in the Big Bend region. See details on the state website at www.npsot.org. ☪

Thursday, Oct 27, 6:30 p.m. ☪ **TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER MEETING** at Texas Woman's University in the ACT Building. At 6:30, see Display Tables and enjoy refreshments in the second floor lobby. Our **annual election of officers** will be at 7:00 p.m. in Room 301, followed by **Dr. Rebecca Dickstein**, Associate Professor of Biochemistry at the University of North Texas, speaking on *Plant Propagation with an Emphasis on Propagation from Seed*. ☪

Saturday, Nov 12, 10:00a.m.–noon. ☪ **TOUR OF CROSS TIMBERS PARK** in south Denton. Led by **Marilyn Blanton**. This is mostly wooded, riparian habitat and always enjoyable to see. Meet at the east side of the park at 10:00am. Park next to the pond on Montecito Drive, north of Ryan Rd. ☪

THE TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER MEETS THE 4TH THURSDAY OF JAN–MAY AND SEPT–OCT AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CLOCK TOWER (ACT) BUILDING AT TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY (OAKLAND AVE & ADMIN. DR.) IN DENTON, TEXAS.

☪ ☪ ☪

Announcements

How's your memory? You can help our historian if you were a member in 1990-1994 or have old issues of newsletters, our annual chapter report or NPSOT news. **Harriet Horton** would like your help filling in the gaps in our chapter's historical record. ☪

Is there a **volunteer** in the house? This edition of the *Native Plant Press* is **Cynthia Maguire's** last as our newsletter editor; a new editor is needed by January. If no one volunteers, only a reminder postcard will be sent each month prior to the meetings. Volunteers are also needed to maintain our chapter website, organize a new outreach program, plan children's projects, and introduce our speakers each month. Contact any board member. ☪

☪ ☪ ☪

Current Officers/Board Members

President & Newsletter Editor	940-594-6555
Cynthia Maguire	<i>c.maguire@charter.net</i>
Vice President for Outreach	940-382-2099
Owen Yost	<i>Yost87@charter.net</i>
Secretary	940-323-8999
Lon Turnbull	<i>lont58@aol.com</i>
Treasurer	940-382-0957
Caroline Polliard	
Education	940-382-9344
Dorothy Thetford	<i>dthetford@mailstation.com</i>
Field Trips	940-382-8551
Mike Mizell	<i>mmizell@webtv.net</i>
Historian & Programs	817-847-1816
Harriet Horton	<i>Harriet_Horton@hotmail.com</i>
Hospitality	940-382-8014
Marilyn Martin	<i>marilyn_martin@hotmail.com</i>
Membership	940-383-3287
Laurie Hammett	<i>laurie.hammett@verizon.net</i>
Publicity	972-539-9471
Irene Hanson	<i>ICHanson@metlspan.com</i>
Ways & Means	972-306-1088
Cathy Lustgarten	<i>drgoodrad@comcast.net</i>

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 2762, Georgetown, TX 78627.

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

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.

??? QUESTION POT ???

Q. Why are the leaves drooping on my American beauty-berry?

A. American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) is native to southeast and east Texas, extending westward to the Eastern Cross Timbers. Thus, Denton is in the questionable zone. Rarely will you find American beautyberry in the wild, along the roadside, or along the edge of the woods, which indicates that we are too dry for it to survive without supplemental water. If water is provided in a landscape setting, leaves may wilt in the afternoon heat of August to conserve moisture, but will perk up in normal position during the cooler evening temps. However, if no water is provided during our hot and dry August-September, and the leaves wilt without recouping, the plant is in stress. The bottom line is: American beautyberry is one of our most beautiful fruit-bearing understory shrubs, but it isn't native to Denton. Plant it; water it.

Q. I've really enjoyed my inland sea-oats with both the green seed heads and the mature, beige ones. When should I cut it back?

A. Inland sea-oats, wild oats, or broad-leaf wood-oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) is a welcomed sight each spring, and provides dependable 15-20 inch wispy foliage until winter, with flattened seed heads that blow in the breeze and re-seed easily, or look great in any flower arrangement. All stems will die, and can be broken or cut off in late winter or early spring. Remove them before new spring shoots reach 2 inches tall. Transplant seedlings when they are 3-4 inches tall (or pot 5-6 seedlings together for the spring plant sale).

---Education Committee

Native Plant Society of Texas
Trinity Forks Chapter
P.O. Box 425491
Denton, Texas 76204