



Trinity Forks Native Plant Press

The Newsletter of Trinity Forks Chapter
Native Plant Society of Texas

September 2008

From the Prez (Cathy Lustgarten)

GRASSROOTS ∞ INFRASTRUCTURE

We hear these words used all the time. But how do they apply to NPSOT? We distinguish ourselves among many other “nature” or “eco” organizations by fulfilling our Mission largely at the **GRASSROOTS** level. Our local chapter is in the best position to discover the needs within our own community, to be locally active in promoting natives to individuals, organizations, and agencies, and to be able to respond to local opportunities to touch others and stir excitement about the critical need to preserve and protect native plants and plant habitats.

As I prepared our annual chapter report to send to the state office (see it on our website), I was impressed once again by the tremendous work being done by individuals who write articles and who give talks, tours, and assistance to educational gardens. Our **GRASSROOTS** at work! But I also got goose bumps when I realized how the impact of those efforts could be multiplied if done as a group instead of as individuals, with the full force and strength of the entire chapter behind them, focused and organized by an educational committee, a program committee, etc. This is abundantly evident in our NICE! program, through which an amazing committee of 14 is having a tremendous positive impact throughout our community.

And here is where **INFRASTRUCTURE** comes in. Those with talents to keep us organized and focused on our mission are vital to the life of our chapter. They are the committee members, the committee chairs, the officers who can make our organization a true powerhouse within our community. And it is the thing most **critically lacking** in Trinity Forks just now. Even the mightiest city that ignores a crumbling infrastructure will soon falter and then fail. Without a sound infrastructure, our grassroots activities are at risk of fading into a distant voice in the wilderness, with no one to hear. *In the process we will have failed to preserve and protect the native plants and plant habitat inheritance of future generations, and indeed, on which our own future as a species depends.* Is there truly so much at stake? Most assuredly, there is. So, if not us – who? If not **YOU** – then who? Infrastructure opportunities are listed elsewhere in the newsletter, and I hope each of you will give serious thought to your important role in our Society.

SPECTATORS are very important too. Ever notice how a small crowd draws an ever-larger crowd, curious to see what they’re missing? But once you’ve seen who we are, what we do, and have begun to learn from us, then it’s time to plug yourselves in and help fulfill the Mission of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Chapter meetings & events are where we all come together to get recharged, to mingle with friends who enjoy and get excited about the same things we do, to share a time set aside from our busy schedules where **INFRASTRUCTURE** meets **GRASSROOTS** to fulfill our **MISSION** with the greatest possible impact. Hope to see you there.

September 25 Meeting - Invasive Plant Species

Our speaker for September is Marilyn Sallee, coordinator of the **Cross Timbers Invaders** group of the **Invaders of Texas** program. Marilyn will discuss invasive plant species, the arch-enemy of our native plant communities. **Cross Timbers Invaders** is the largest and most active chapter of the **Invaders of Texas** program; they identify and track the spread of invasive plants in Texas.

The **Invaders of Texas** program, administered by the **LBJ Wildflower Center**, tracks the expansion of invasive plants and reports them to the USDA. **Cross Timbers Invaders** is the largest and most active Invaders group in the state. They have partnered in reporting and removing invasives with the cities of Ft Worth and Arlington, the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as many individual property owners. The **PlantWise** program is allied with the Invaders, offering education to homeowners about alternatives to invasives.

Marilyn is an officer in the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists, and a member of Citizen Foresters, Master Gardeners, and Master Composters. In addition, Marilyn is a Plant Propagation Specialist, an Entomology Specialist, active in the Speaker's Bureau, and writes a regular column for the Sharecropper newsletter and occasional articles for various horticulture related magazines. She is also the Technical Advisor for the TMG Awards program this year. She averages more than 1,000 volunteer hours a year with her various interests.

Her one-acre property west of Ft Worth is a certified Texas Wildscape and a National Wildlife Federation certified Backyard Habitat, teaming with native plants and critters, including the name-sake deer of Deer Creek Subdivision.

REPORT ON 2010 STATE SYMPOSIUM

Are You *IN* for 2010?

Members of five area NPSOT chapters met at **Cathy Lustgarten**'s home in August for a brainstorming session on the 2010 Symposium. It will be the observance of the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Native Plant Society of Texas, and **Denton** has been chosen as the location for this meeting. Our theme was collectively decided; the heralded cry for 2010 will be

Save Texas One Landscape at a Time: Our Native Plants Light the Future

Collectively, we envisioned this as a "How-to-do-it Symposium" in which we will seek presentations both from and for a wide audience. This will include, but not be limited to, developers, builders, farmers and ranchers, landscapers, landscape architects, nurseries and growers, neighborhood associations, city staff (parks, arborists) and city council members, educators, corporations, botanical gardens, conservation groups and other non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity and Master Naturalists, gardening editors in local newspapers and—of course—our own members, too. For those who need continuing education credits (CEUs), we will pursue qualifying through their professional organizations. We are striving to reach a much broader audience with our message.

The message itself will encompass our botanic heritage, the current status and future uses of native plants and plant habitats in Texas, as well as the pressing need to conserve both water, money and wildlife habitat. That dollar sign in *Save* is important and we plan to emphasize it. We are also looking for historical articles and programs from the early years that show what the founders envisioned, so we can compare *then* to *now* to the *future*.

Any group that can help us get the message out is fair game. *We must do something and quickly* to save our natural heritage. We must begin to educate any and all that **we must save as much water and as many of our native plants, as quickly and efficiently as we possibly can**. The broader the contact spectrum, the louder the message. The louder the message, the more people will pay attention and ask questions and try new things in their gardening and landscaping. It has begun already, but the message is urgent and we can do much more! A call has gone out from the meeting for each and every chapter to select some one area in which to participate collectively. Opportunities to volunteer are listed below. Since it is local to Trinity Forks, there are a couple of areas we are best equipped to handle ourselves. Cathy and I have already set those aside; they are in bold print. This does not mean that Trinity Forks members cannot serve in other areas as they desire, or that members of other chapters cannot serve with us on the bolded items.

- ✓ **FINANCE** (*TRINITY FORKS*) ▶ Budget, silent auction, sponsors, exhibitors, hotels, meeting site)
- ✓ **EVENTS** (*OPEN*) ▶ Special observances for 30th anniversary; Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings
- ✓ **EDUCATION & PROGRAMS** (*OPEN*) ▶ Speakers, field trips, workshops, tours; arrange CEUs
- ✓ **COMMUNICATIONS** (*OPEN*) ▶ Graphic design, all printed materials, website, publicity and advertising
- ✓ **HOSPITALITY** (*OPEN*) ▶ Housing options, art or photo contest, T-shirts, decorations, welcome bag
- ✓ **LOGISTICS** (*TRINITY FORKS*) ▶ Signage, registration, co-ordinate facilities and volunteers, handbook editor
- ✓ **ON-SITE JOBS** (*OPEN*) ▶ Speaker equipment coordinator, photographer, hospitality table, registration table, miscellaneous

The future of Texas is in sight. It is time to be counted as one who is acting on our shared concerns about some of Texas' most valuable assets, our water resources and native plants. How about it? Will you be counted as a Pioneer in another Texas Success?

If you want to be a part of an exciting movement that the whole state will be following, then now is the time to make your choice known. **Cynthia Maguire**, as Steering Committee Chair, and **Cathy Lustgarten**, as our Chapter President, will co-chair the 2010 Symposium. We ask that you contact either **Cynthia** (cynthia.maguire@verizon.net or 940.594.6555) or **Cathy** (drgoodrad@verizon.net or 972.306.1088) to choose the area where you feel you can make your best contribution, and we look forward to working with all of you. For the first of many times, *we thank you in advance!!!*

We have two years, but it will take time to develop the details and work with the other north Texas area chapters for the success of this already imposing symposium. If handled correctly, the 2010 Symposium has the potential to impact as no other has ever done on the mission of the Native Plant Society of Texas: ***to promote the conservation, research and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas, through education, outreach and example.***

Cynthia Maguire
2010 Symposium Co-Chair

*Portions of this article were originally written by **Jan Daniels**, Vice President of the Cross Timbers chapter of NPSOT, and were revised and used with her permission.*

A Tribute to Bobby Short Thomas, M.D.
A NPSOT Founding Member

On Thursday, July 17, 2008, the Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society and wildflowers in particular lost a dedicated friend. Bobby Short Thomas passed away at her home in Denton at the age of 92. She was preceded in death by her husband, J. David Thomas, M.D. Survivors include their children Anne Thomas Banks, David Thomas, and Cynthia Thomas.

Dr. Thomas was active in the Wildflower Days during the 1970s on the campus of the Texas Woman's University. From these Wildflower Days, the Native Plant Society of Texas was founded in 1980, which now boasts chapters throughout the state of Texas. She worked tirelessly in carrying out the mission of the Native Plant Society of conservation, research, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example. These practices were demonstrated on their family ranch in Cooke County.

We extend our condolences to the family of Bobby Thomas.

Submitted by Laurie Hammett, Membership Chair

On Sale -- Spectacular NICE! 2009 Calendars

A very special 2009 calendar featuring 12 NICE! (Natives Instead of Common Exotics) Plants of the Season will be for sale starting at the September 25th meeting and ending at the October 23rd meeting. The calendar also includes chapter and state meeting date entries and growing information for each plant. Buy them as great gifts for your plant loving friends, especially if they haven't gotten into native plants! Price per calendar is \$16.

If you can't make it to these two meetings and wish to order a calendar, contact Kathy Saucier at gksaucier@verizon.net or 972-492-4680 by the 10/23/09 deadline.

Also, if you are attending the annual symposium in Beaumont in October, we need members to sit at our vendor table to sell/take orders for the calendar. Please volunteer a few minutes of your time while you are there. Same contact - Kathy Saucier.

Nominations/Volunteers Needed

The great camaraderie our chapter enjoys is a direct outgrowth of the many committee activities and the volunteers who carry them out. Please take your turn in one or more of the following committee positions or offices, and let our nominating committee of Laurie and Cynthia, know of your interest: programs, field trips, hospitality, ways & means, membership, treasurer, secretary, education, president, vice president, webmaster, NICE!

EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND EXAMPLE...

During the 1990's, two Calhoun Middle School teachers obtained money from a Verizon Gift Grant to establish an outdoor learning center for their science students. All went well with a little plot of plants here, a little plot of vegetables there, a pond, and even a small butterfly garden, which was attended by students and PTA members. But, as we all know, students and PTA eventually move on, and some well-planned projects tend to lose devoted volunteers.

Nine years ago Michelle Rainer joined the science faculty and devoted endless hours to revitalizing the project, adding new venues, new gardens, and even enlarging the pond. She created the Science Education Endurance Determination (S.E.E.D.) Club with renewed interest from her science students. Two years ago Michelle invited a Master Naturalist, a Master Gardener, and a Trinity Forks Chapter rep to collaborate on a serious update of the Butterfly Garden, and that committee along with SEED students and PTA members fulfilled her goals. The committee provided programs, garden plans, native plant lists, and plants, in addition to hands-on work sessions. Volunteers from those three organizations, along with donations from local businesses and Keep Denton Beautiful, completed the garden area renovation.

Now is a great time to check out the garden and see fall-blooming wildflowers. The garden and donor sign are visible through a chainlink fence from the curbside of Denton Street (2 blocks north of W. Oak). It is located parallel to the bus zones, so plan your visit any time other than bus-loading and unloading times of the weekdays. I think you'll be pleased with what you see.

Dorothy Thetford, Trinity Forks representative

George Bush Tollway Landscape Tour

Sunday, October 5th, 12:30 pm

We'll ride in a NTTA vehicle. Limited to first 8 preregistered and paid applicants. Cost - \$2

Meet in Plano at the NTTA Maintenance Center at 1080 Ohio Dr., one block south of Plano Parkway. The building is behind the Huffines car dealership. Contact Joan Phelps to sign up and pay your \$2 by the September 25th meeting.

JPhelps@mail.twu.edu or phone: 940-321-5980

Has your e-mail address changed? Make sure you notify Laurie Hammett, our chipper membership chair, so she can keep the state records up-to-date. In addition, remember to update your Yahoo account for our chapter discussion group TrinityForksNPSOT@yahoo.com, since we

cannot change that for you.

Native Plant Society of Texas
Trinity Forks Chapter
P.O. Box 425491
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Trinity Forks Contact Information

President - Cathy Lustgarten, 972-306-1088
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Treasurer - Joan Phelps, 940-898-2860
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Trinity Forks Chapter of NPSOT meets on the fourth Thursday of January through May and September and October. Sign-in, social time with refreshments, educational displays, etc. start at 6:30 on the 2nd floor of the Administration & Clock Tower (ACT) building at Texas Woman's University in Denton. ACT is located at Oakland Ave. & Administration Drive. The program begins at 7:00pm on the 3^d floor.

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.

Membership Corner

We give a big Thank-You to all these folks who have renewed their memberships in Trinity Forks since May. Hope to see you at the next meeting. You are what makes Trinity Forks special!

*John E. Vandigriff
Fritz Poppe
Lisa Euchner
Hugh Garnett
Debbie Van Ness
Mary Curry
Dorothy & Alan Thetford
W.R. Mote
Marshall & Fonda Fox
Elizabeth McMath
Julie Kidd
Stanley Lovelace*

Website: www.npsot.org/TrinityForks