

# Trinity Forks Native Plant Press

The Newsletter of Trinity Forks Chapter  
Native Plant Society of Texas

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October 2010

*From the Prez*

## Keep It Up Trinity Forks Chapter!

It is time to write my last letter during my tenure as the Trinity Forks Chapter President. I will still serve the chapter as Past President for one more year and as a regular member after that. Marshall Fox, President-Elect, will take over as President of the chapter at the end of October's general meeting. So, what did we accomplish in the past year? I will not write a detailed report about the chapter's activities in the past year in this letter for lack of space. I just want to mention the fact that we had a productive year with lots of meaningful activities and achievements, including outstanding outreach and educational activities, the largest spring plant sale ever, record increase in membership, and the successful NPSOT 30th Anniversary Symposium, to mention a few. I would like to express sincere gratitude to all the highly dedicated members who have been instrumental in the success of our activities. The list of names would be too long for this article, plus I do not want to miss anyone. But be assured that even if I do not mention names, I think of and thank each of you for your support of TF activities in the past year. However, I will make an exception and send a special "Thank you!" for the symposium organization to all board and chapter members who served in different committees, but most of all to Cynthia Maguire and Cathy Lustgarten, who co-chaired the Symposium Committee, and Jennie Wojtaszek and TWU student volunteers, who helped enormously with the symposium.

Looking back at my affiliation with Trinity Forks chapter, I realized that my first experience with NPSOT was a very long time ago, some 20 years ago, which coincides with TF's beginnings as a formally organized NPSOT chapter. Dorothy Thetford and the late Floyd Shafer introduced me to Texas native plants, and I am very grateful to them forever. I was a graduate student in the Biology Department at UNT, newly arrived from Romania, with very little knowledge of Texas native plant species, except for the Texas bluebonnets, of course. Thanks to Dorothy, who used to bring plants to be identified in our lab, and Floyd, who took me around on field trips, I learned most of the Texas native plants in my first year in Texas. During the intervening two decades I was not only fortunate enough to establish a career in research and teaching in plant biology, but also had the wonderful opportunity to attend TF meetings and volunteer for various activities of the chapter. My sincere gratitude goes to all the previous and current chapter members who taught and continue to teach me to love and respect Texas native plants.

So what have I learned after one year on the executive board of the chapter, and what would be some directions I suggest our chapter go in the future? The TF business agenda is mostly carried out by the 12 elected officers and appointed committee chairs, some of whom are wearing two hats in order to cover the many needed facets of our chapter's activities. All of these members deserve our heartfelt gratitude for their dedicated and reliable service that drives our chapter's engine. Please, take a moment to look up the list of officers on the last page of this newsletter. Our membership increased to a record 130 members from 97 reported in January 2010; therefore, we should be able to recruit new members to serve on the board. One chapter objective for 2010-2011 should be to recruit, elect, and appoint new officers and more committee members for each of the board positions so no single member has to carry two hats in the future.

I have also learned of the dedication and hard work of the board

members and other chapter members that sprang from the love of native plants. I have learned that most of the efforts for our activities were carried out in the true spirit of teamwork and that we reached out to our community and educated more school kids than any year before. The NPSOT leadership, through the Strategic Plan for increasing the NPSOT effectiveness, puts new initiatives forward, and some of them will impact the Society for years to come. One of the objectives in the Strategic Plan calls for the Society to enter the world of advocacy (NPSOT News 2009, Vol. 27, 2-3). In this letter I would like to re-visit the advocacy issue in the context of our role in educating people about sustainability. Let's work harder toward making ourselves more visible to the general population and to other organizations involving plants and resource conservation. Our native plants are part of the surrounding natural ecosystems and attract insects, birds, mammals, and other animals, as we know. Plant-soil and plant-animal interactions are multitrophic interactions that drive the ecosystem processes and maintain its sustainability. Concepts of the role of the aboveground-belowground relationships can be and are applied to the restoration of abandoned or mismanaged land, reversal of biological invasions, and conservation. Are people in our communities aware of basic ecological principles and the importance of native plants in local ecosystems? Many still believe that the Earth is here to be used as we like; however, we need to be aware of the importance of ecosystems to issues such as well-being of all species (since all have intrinsic value), climate regulation, water supplies, and food security. Ecosystems provide us with ecological services that are massively undervalued by many. Trinity Forks chapter needs to continue educating our communities with respect to these issues.

United Nations Organization declared the year 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. A report from UNO showed that no country had met its targets to protect nature; therefore, the Convention on Biological Diversity in Japan (<http://www.cbd.int/>) asked governments to strengthen species protection plans. We are losing biodiversity at an unprecedented rate worldwide. Conserving species and habitats is central to sustainable development as publicized by research projects, media, different other occasions and means, and by speakers at the NPSOT Symposium two weeks ago. We must stop thinking of environmental protection as a cost when in fact it is an investment that can contribute to consolidate economic growth and our well-being.

Let's work together toward a "Nature Repair Manual" for our gardens, parks, and landscaped areas around our buildings. The chapter's efforts in advocating the NPSOT mission and vision will enable more effective use of knowledge and resources, thus accelerating progress in solving challenges such as world hunger, energy needs, water availability, climate change, health and well-being, sustainability and environmental protection. More than ever, TF needs to open new dialogues and continue previously established dialogues with other community organizations and local governments. Let's work toward creating ecological restoration zones in partnership with councils, landowners, communities and businesses. I truly believe that with the new board composition at both the chapter level and state level, we can make a huge difference in advocating our mission. So, keep it up Trinity Forks! Please, join me in welcoming Marshall Fox as your new President. Ongoing business of the chapter is in good hands.

*Camelia Maier, TF President*

## October 28 Program

Our October program will be presented by Roger Sanderson from the Heard Natural Science Museum in McKinney. He will describe the natural wonders to be seen at the Heard sanctuary – the beautiful native display garden, the prairie restoration, and along the trails.

Roger did his undergraduate work at U.T. Austin, majoring in Zoology with a minor in Botany and did his graduate work at Texas A&M in Horticulture. These diverse institutions gave him a unique perspective on nature, as well as a heck-of-a sense of humor!

Roger has been Wildlife Biologist at the Heard for 8 years and was recently promoted to Director of Botanical Gardens. His love of snakes has earned him the title of “Snake Man.” His huge live, native Texas snake collection is one of the best in the state and was used to create the Heard’s widely acclaimed *Rat Snakes to Rattlers* exhibit and the following *Venomous Snakes of Texas* exhibit. Both Roger and his wife are active birders, traveling widely to view new or unusual species. In 2007 and 2008 they were selected to be part of the Cornell University search team for the Ivory Bill Woodpecker in Arkansas. Insects, too, are a favorite subject! He has been collecting butterflies and moths since the third grade and did research on gall insects at A & M. Despite his vast background in animals, Roger’s greatest expertise is in plants. He was Assistant Director of the Dallas Civic Garden Center (now Texas Discovery Gardens) for 5 ½ years until forming his own landscape company, which he still operates part time. Roger had a weekly column for several years in the Dallas Morning News on plants and continues to write articles about nature in several publications.

## October 17-23 is Texas Native Plant Week

NPSOT urges every Texan to celebrate by visiting a native plant garden or planting one in their own yard. Planting native trees, shrubs and flowers helps conserve water, provide wildlife habitat and show your Texas pride! Native plants are a good choice whether you are planting a tree, shrub, flowers, vines or grasses because they are acclimated to your local climate conditions and soils, provide habitat for wildlife, typically require less water and maintenance once established, and do not rely on chemical fertilizers and pesticides to thrive. Native plants are beautiful, and they provide a sense of place and help maintain the region’s wide variety of flora and fauna. You can learn more about Texas Native Plant Week at [www.txnativeplantweek.org](http://www.txnativeplantweek.org) or [www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org)

## Native Plant Wk. Activities in Flower Mound

### Garden Tour, Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM

KFMB/NPSOT Sustainable Landscaping classmate, Linda Harvey, has graciously volunteered to provide a Garden Tour at her home Sunday, October 24 at 1 PM. Linda dug and planted her own rain garden, is a member of the Denton County Master Gardeners Speaker Bureau and contributed many thoughtful answers to our recent Sustainable Landscape Class. Her address is shown below. Google it to obtain directions.

Linda Harvey Garden  
3701 Sarah Springs Trail  
Flower Mound, TX 75022

The tour should take about an hour. Please contact KFMB if you wish to attend. (See below.)

### NICE Nursery Tour, Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, ~2 PM

KFMB/NPSOT Sustainable Landscape classmate Irene Hanson invites you to tour two Flower Mound Nurseries after the Garden Tour at the Harvey’s. This tour will visit (1) Westbrook Outdoor Solutions, 1616 Arrowhead, (across from Parker Square) and (2) Schmitz Garden Center, 3714 Old Settlers Road, (down the street from Flower Mound High School). Both nurseries are supporting our NICE! program promoting a new plant each season.

If you would like to join the tour, please RSVP to KFMB. (See below.)

### Landscape for Life SITE makes debut

This week, the Landscape for Life web site made its debut. Landscape For Life is based on the principles of [The Sustainable Sites Initiative™ \(SITES™\)](http://www.sustainable-sites.org), the nation’s first rating system for sustainable landscapes. SITES offers technical tools for professionals who design, construct, operate, and maintain landscapes of all sizes. Landscape For Life presents this information in an easy-to-understand form that homeowners and gardeners can use themselves. Here is the link to the site: [www.landscapeforlife.org/](http://www.landscapeforlife.org/)

### Wildflower Seeding Class - Saturday, Nov. 13

Keep Flower Mound Beautiful (KFMB)([www.kfmb.org](http://www.kfmb.org)) and the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) ([www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org)) are joining together to sponsor a FREE Wildflower Seeding Class at 9 A.M. on Saturday, November 13. Join this hands-on, how-to-plant wildflowers from seed class. No experience necessary. Learn how to provide beautiful, abundant and colorful wildflowers in your garden next spring by sowing their seeds this fall. Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) members will provide adults and well-supervised children seven years and older, a brief history of The Flower Mound, basic concepts and practices used to plant wildflowers, and a hands-on demonstration of seeding techniques.

RSVP via email to [info@kfmb.org](mailto:info@kfmb.org) or call (469) 828-9074.

*Information provided by Tom Kirwan*

### Symposium Plant Display – A Tradition

The beautiful display of fresh native flowers & grasses gathered by several Trinity Forks members for Symposium 2010 continued the legacy of exhibiting “what’s blooming” begun for Wildflower Day way back in the late 1970s, which preceded the formation of NPSOT. Carroll Abbott had gotten the fourth Saturday in April designated as Wildflower Day in Texas. One year with a very favorable Spring in Big Bend, Barton Warnock and John Mac Carpenter brought a cooler full of Big Bend flowers.

Our 2010 Symposium display featured 42 grasses and 55 wildflowers and fruit that can be seen now in N.C.TX.

*Information provided by Shirley Lusk*



Newly-elected NPSOT president Cynthia Maguire shows off the Benny Simpson Memorial Garden on the campus of Texas Woman's University during the Symposium.  
*(photo by Bill Hopkins, NPSOT webmaster)*



Art Contest judges – Harriet Horton, Mike Mizell, Melanie Morgan, Fritz Poppe, Cheryl Kesterson, Marian Kester, & Marilyn Blanton (not shown, taking photo)

*Photos of Art Contest by Marilyn Blanton*



From McNair Elementary School



From Hodge Elementary School



From Ryan Elementary School



From Newton Razor Elementary School



*Photo by D. Thetford ©*

Book donation to Evers Elem. OLC.  
(Dorothy Thetford, Sandy Taylor, Trey Spalding)



*Photo by D. Thetford ©*

OLC Workshop at Symposium  
(Janet Laminack, Cheryl Kesterson, Dorothy Thetford)



*Photo by D. Thetford ©*

Trinity Forks' booth at Fall InfoFest



*Photo by D. Thetford ©*

Maximilian Sunflower

**Photos from Symposium 2010 Awards Banquet**



*Photo by Kathy Saucier*

Many of the Symposium helpers from TF Chapter being recognized by Cynthia Maguire.



*Photo by Kathy Saucier*

Marilyn Blanton receiving award for best dry flower arrangement.

## Local Native Plant Art Exhibition

In celebration and recognition of Texas Native Plant Week, our chapter and the Elm Fork chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, in cooperation with the College of Arts and Sciences at Texas Woman's University, sponsored the Texas Native Plant Art Contest & Exhibition. The fourth grade students of McNair, Ryan, Hodge & Newton Razor Elementary Schools participated by creating beautiful paintings of Texas native plants while learning about their importance. Favorites like Mexican hat, Indian blanket, bluebonnet, dogwood, blue eyed grass, and magnolia were depicted.

The artwork has already been displayed at the Arts & Sciences Building at Texas Woman's University during the 2010 NPSOT Symposium. It will be on exhibit at all three Denton Libraries next month. In December it will be displayed at the Interpretive Center at Lake Ray Roberts State Park. It will be shown at our chapter meeting and the Texas Master Naturalists chapter meeting in January. The Environmental Education, Science and Technology Building at the University of North Texas will host the exhibit in February.

I would like to thank everyone that has helped with this project. The participation of our members and those of the Texas Master Naturalists, the faculty and students of Texas Woman's University, those hosting the exhibit and especially the art teachers and students of McNair, Ryan, Hodge and Newton Razor Elementary Schools have made the Texas Native Art Exhibition a success.

See photos from the contest by Marilyn on page 3.  
*Marilyn Blanton, Project Manager*

## Outreach Report

9-2-10: Trinity Forks Chapter provided info booth at Master Gardener Fall InfoFest, where 6 visitors asked to be informed of TF upcoming meetings. Two of the visitors were members previously, who plan to renew membership.

9-4-10: On behalf of T F Chapter, NATIVE TEXAS PLANTS book was presented to Principal Trey Spalding, \$150 Gift Certificate to Painted Flower Farm was presented to Science Specialist, Ms Sandy Taylor, and 50 plants were delivered to Evers Elementary Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) garden.

9-9-10: Trinity Forks Chapter Outreach Chair provided symposium workshop attendees with ideas for promoting OLC school gardens.

See photos by Dorothy on page 4.  
*Dorothy Thetford, Outreach Chair*

## "Wildflowers-of-Texas"

by Dorothy Brown Thetford

Common name: Maximilian sunflower

Scientific name: *Helianthus maximiliana*

Family: Asteraceae

While viewing our North Central Texas prairies and roadsides filled with yellow Soft golden-aster (*Chrysopsis pilosa*), yellow Golden aster (*Heterotheca subaxillaris*), yellow Partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), yellow Greeneyes (*Berlandiera betonicifolia*), yellow Hairy sunflower (*Helianthus hirsutus*), yellow Willow-leaf sunflower (*H. salicifolius*), yellow Saw-leaf daisy (*Grindelia papposa*), yellow Texas broomweed (*Gutierrezia texana*), yellow Common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), yellow Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*), yellow Golden crownbeard (*Verbesina encelioides*), yellow Broom whitlow wort (*Paronychia virginica*), yellow Buffalo bur (*Solanum rostratum*), and yellow Bitterweed (*Helenium amarum*), there is a very noticeable theme involved. Did I mention the color 'yellow'? Yes, and they're all in bloom during our Fall wildflower season.

However, when the Maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliana*) bursts into bloom, attention is temporarily diverted to this spectacular event. A colony of this single or multi-stemmed plant, towering 4 to 7 feet tall, is an exception to the norm.

Three- to four-inch flower stalks (petiole, pedicel, or peduncle) at each leaf axis may be closely or sparsely arranged along the upper stem. And, with a terminal flower blooming on each stalk, the top of each stout, woody stem turns into a vertical bouquet.

The flowers, composed of 25-35 yellow ray flowers encircling a center of yellow disk flowers, appear to burst into bloom all at the same time, providing an overwhelming explosion of vibrant yellow. But, in reality, the flowers bloom from the top downward, allowing the upper two feet of blooms to be grande and showy at the beginning of their blooming cycle.

Leaves, when mature, are 4 to 10 inches long, 1 inch wide, alternate, narrowly elliptic, sickle-shaped, clasping, folded lengthwise, and are rough textured. Given the height of this stately sunflower and the lack of rain during late summer, the lower leaves oftentimes begin dying before the flowers bloom.

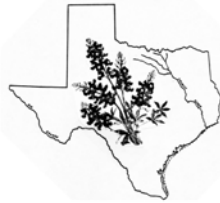
Its being an important food source for livestock and deer explains the disappearance of this perennial from pasture land. However, ungrazed prairies, fencerows, and unmowed roadsides are in full bloom in our area from late September through mid October.

Maximilian sunflower is one of our most abundant and widespread sunflowers in Texas. The disk flower is fertile and produces a mature achene (1-seeded fruit) and could easily be added to a wildlife management plan, a native-scape, a butterfly garden, or, if ample space is provided, the centerpiece Monarch butterfly-attraction for an Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) school garden.

Enjoy all of the yellows of the season, but I hope you'll enjoy this one to the max!

See photo by Dorothy on page 4.  
*Dorothy is a past president of TF, a Certified Master Naturalist, and wildflower ambassador since 1992.*

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



### **Thank you, Trinity Forks!**

We've heard nothing but praise for **Symposium 2010** and all those who helped host it. Whether you checked out hotel rooms 18 months ago, or worked at a volunteer table this month—or hundreds of other jobs in-between—YOU are what made this a great event. We want to thank all those who participated. We've gotten cards and emails with words like, "wonderful," "over-the-top," "incredible variety," "something for everyone," "amazing," and more. None of that would have happened if a small army of volunteers had not mobilized themselves to pull it off. We appreciate each and every one of you! Thanks for helping us create an event that lingers in our memories and moves our NPSOT mission forward. We couldn't have done it without you!

*Cynthia Maguire & Cathy Lustgarten*

## **October 2010**

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### **Trinity Forks Contact Information**

**President** - Camelia Maier, 940-566-7913  
cmaier@mail.twu.edu

**Pres. Elect** - Marshall Fox, 940-627-2343

**Secretary** - Lon Turnbull, 940-323-8999

**Treasurer** - Fritz Poppe, 940-387-9351

**Past Pres.** -- Cathy Lustgarten, 972-306-1088

**Ways/Means** - Cathy Lustgarten, 972-306-1088

**Membership** - Laurie Hammett, 940-383-3287  
-- Jennie Wojtaszek

**Hospitality** - Fonda Fox, 940-627-2343

**Programs** - Cecil Carter, 940-321-9527

**Publicity** - Cecil Carter, 940-321-9527

**Education** - Marilyn Blanton, 940-387-4353(B)

**Outreach** - Dorothy Thetford, 940-382-9344

**Parliamentarian** - Marshall Fox, 940-627-2343

**Field Trips** - OPEN

**Historian** - OPEN

**Webmaster** - Lon Turnbull, 940-323-8999

**Newsletter** - Mike Mizell, 940-382-8551  
birdmizell@msn.com

**NICE! Coordinators:**

Kathy Saucier, 972-492-4680

Marilyn Blanton, 940-464-7775(H)

**Website:** [www.npsot.org/TrinityForks](http://www.npsot.org/TrinityForks)

### **Membership Corner**

We give a big 'Thank You' to all these folks who became new or renewed members in Trinity Forks in the past month and hope to see you at the next meeting. You are what makes Trinity Forks special!

#### **All Flower Mound:**

Deanna Miles

Lori Fagerquist

Dale Hoskisson

Joanne Fell

Andrea Milton

Lynda Harvey

Al Filidoro

Spenser Harvey

Trish Biedermann, Richardson

Shirlene Sitton, Denton

Marian McCarley, Sherman

Martha Greene, Highland Village

Dennis Brown, Corinth

Carolyn Hayward, Corinth

Reta Smiddy Foreman, Lewisville

Julie Kidd, Carrollton

Russell Bilyeu, Chico

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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<sup>rd</sup> 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.*

More Symposium 2010 Photos

Friday



*Photo by Kathy Saucier*  
Dr. Ann Stuart welcoming attendees Fri. morning.



*Photo by Kathy Saucier*  
Marshall & Fonda Fox dancing prior to the evening meal at Merritt Bison Ranch.



*Photo by Kathy Saucier*  
Grand entertainment after the evening meal. The TF Singers leading everyone in singing.

Saturday



*Photo by Marilyn Blanton*  
Marilyn Blanton with TF Chapter display.



*Photo by Kathy Saucier*  
Symp. Co-chairs, Cynthia Maguire & Cathy Lustgarten



*Photo by Kathy Saucier*  
Recognition of all past NPSOT Presidents present.



*Photo by Kathy Saucier*  
Ron Loper passing the gavel to Cynthia Maguire.

# Ray Roberts Lake State Park Isle du Bois Interpretive Center workday 9-30-10

(Photos by Kathy Saucier)



Dorothy Thetford & Susan Poulen



Dorothy, watch out for that snake!!!

The TF chapter NPSOT and Master Naturalists held a workday on September 30th to clean out "plants in the wrong place" (because we don't say weeds) at the RRLSP Isle du Bois Interpretive Center gardens. The garden areas were installed in 2007, and the 2 groups continue to maintain, clean up and add to them.

Early in the workday a copperhead was discovered curled up on the porch under the railing. People, like Dorothy Thetford pictured here, worked in close proximity to the snake, and it never stirred. In this photo with Dorothy, you can see the snake on the porch under the rail to the left. Previous "supervisors" have been hummingbirds and nesting Eastern Phoebes.

The pond at the Interpretive Center will be undergoing reconstruction, but otherwise the gardens are continuing to show visitors plants they could come across while in the park.

If you would like to be part of the team that maintains them, contact Kathy Saucier at [gksaucier@verizon.net](mailto:gksaucier@verizon.net)



## LBJ Grasslands

(Photos by Kathy Saucier)



Black dalea



Mealy blue sage  
(just recently discovered here)



Whitlow wort



Spring obedient plant  
This population blooms Aug-Oct.



Rock pink (*Talinum calycinum*)



Ladies'-tresses orchid



Tall or Hairy grama grass



Greenbriar berries