



From the Prez

Saturday April 9th, 2011 was a beautiful day for a festival. The sun was out, and the wind did not get up until later in the day. We had a large crowd of shoppers for the Denton Redbud Festival. The TF NPSOT membership, Painted Flower Farm, & The Shades of Green Nursery were able to have over 1800 native plants available for sale. We raised \$5500.00 plus in gross sales. A cedar garden arbor for our raffle drawing at the end of the sale was donated by [Threeman Products](#). I can assure you by the end of the day all of the 30 members and volunteers that showed up to assist in the sale were exhausted. I want to thank all of those people and the people who came out to support us for their heroic effort. It was a valuable outreach to our community.

The Saturday before the Festival, Cynthia Maguire organized a work day at the Benny Simpson Garden at TWU. Over 69 students participated, along with 4 of our chapter members and also Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners as mentors to the students. This afforded the students an opportunity to provide community service to their university along with an introduction to both gardening and native plants. We had provided a donation of up to \$400.00 to purchase replacement plants for this project, which were planted by the students.

Then we had a chance to attend an outreach to an Eco-week celebration for the first time at Pepsi Co/Frito-Lay. Kathy Saucier led a joint field trip to area 31 on the LBJ National Grasslands with the Wichita Falls chapter. Mike Mizell is preparing a Tour of Home Gardens on May 21, and I hope everyone will come to see our native habitats in our backyards in Denton. We have not gotten all of the details together for our chapter August ice cream social yet.

I also am sad to report that our Outreach Chairperson Dorothy Thetford has resigned this post after many long years of service to our Chapter in just about every office on our board, including President of the Chapter. Her input & insight on the

Board will be greatly missed, and she will always be welcomed back. Many thanks for her unselfish and long service to advance the mission of TF NPSOT. Dorothy has given us a charming thank you card from students at the elementary schools at which she has been volunteering. We will have it on display at our April chapter meeting. The month of April has been a busy one, and we still have the rest of the year to go.

We have openings on our board for several positions now. We could use a Field trip chairperson. This is not too difficult. It just entails planning a few field trips per year. We already have several ideas for places to go in the future. Another open position is the Hospitality chairperson. In this position you can coordinate volunteers to provide refreshments for our program meetings and special events like the ice cream social. The Outreach chairperson plans things like information booths at various events and could create a speaker's bureau. I am sure Dorothy would be glad to give a new chair some ideas. We could also use some other members to serve as committee members under the chairperson of any committee so that one person is not doing all of the work. Doug Chadwick is looking for one or two members to serve on a planning committee for the Ile du Bois unit at Lake Ray Roberts. Think about some areas that you might like to help with for the rest of the year.

I look forward to seeing you out and about.

Marshall Fox, TF President

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THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

General Meeting – Thursday, April 28

Carrie Dubberly of Dubberley Landscape, Inc. will present a program on ***“Beautiful native plant combinations for North Texas.”*** Dubberly said; “I have a passion for native plants and am dedicated to helping people bring beautiful nature into their lives. I am especially enthusiastic about sharing my landscaping and horticultural knowledge and how to integrate the art and science of growing native plants and how that relates to the larger environment. I will be sharing how to provide sustainable native landscapes that are beautiful, as well as earth-friendly.”

NOTE: This month we will be back in our usual location in the Clock Tower Bldg.

MAY YARD TOUR

We have an outstanding tour of 5 Denton yards lined up for **Saturday, May 21**. We will start with an absolutely awesome landscape created by Bill Moen, a professor of library science at UNT. This is a large yard, with sun in the front and shade in the back and includes a pond. There is NO turf grass and almost ALL native plants. Next we will visit our member Marilyn Martin with her wooded yard full of natives. Then to past TF President Lou/Louise Kraft's yard. He's not pure native, but the yard is relaxing and delightful, with lots of rocks and garden art. Next is Johnnie Aven's yard near TWU. It has border-to-border natives and is spectacular! We end the afternoon at Cynthia Maguire's yard in south Denton. Her front yard is now totally revamped with natives galore. She and husband Patrick will treat us to a delightful meal from their grill. You don't want to miss this delightful tour.

Meet in the TWU parking lot on Oakland St. directly west of the Admin./Clock Tower Bldg. at 12:45pm. We will depart promptly at 1:00pm.

... SPRING PLANT SALE REPORT

A very big 'Thank You' to everyone who helped with what was another very successful plant sale. About 14 people donated 1250 plants. With the consignment plants added in, we had approximately 1850 plants for sale and sold around 1240 of those. Profit on plant sales was approximately \$3500. Profit on the raffle for the arbor was about \$500.

So total profit was right at \$4000.

Winner of the Garden Arbor Raffle was Carla Quinn. When we phoned to notify her, she squealed with delight and said she had been standing by waiting for our call! It was definitely a popular item. Many thanks to 3 Man Products.com for this donation to our chapter.

Winner Carla Quinn with arbor in her yard >

Pots Pots – Have You Got Pots ???

After the plant sale many of us will be running very low on our pot supply for next year, and some of us start potting up soon after the sale and all through the year. So those of you who obtain pots from plant purchases, at our sale or from nurseries, and have no need for them, please bring your pots to the meetings. Let's start with the April meeting.

We need any size – small, medium and large.

If you cannot make a meeting and have pots that you need to drop off or have someone come pick up, contact Kathy Saucier, gksaucier@verizon.net or 972-492-4680.

We have members in various areas such as Denton, Flower Mound, Decatur and Carrollton who each pot as many as 350 plants for the sales.

We desperately need pots!!!

Same goes if you have any spare dirt or compost.

NICE! Needs Helpers

The NICE! Committee is in need of 2 helpers.

Proof Reader – for grammar, spellings, etc. when we do each new plant write-up. Must have computer so we can communicate by email with Word documents & pdf.

Backup Editor – in cases where our main editor is swamped with work, we need a second person to fall back on. Look at our past write-ups to see samples of what you would be doing. Need to be able to write and attach photos, then send copies to be edited by proofreaders.

Contact Kathy Saucier, gksaucier@verizon.net, 972-492-4680



Perennial spring blooms that attract butterflies: Fragrant Phlox, *Phlox pilosa*

Description: *Phlox pilosa* L., called Fragrant Phlox, Downy Phlox or Prairie Phlox, is found in north central Texas, primarily in the dry soils of prairies and dry wooded areas. It is a small herbaceous perennial that is usually 6-8 inches high and 6-12 inches wide. Its leaves are long and narrow, usually 2 inches and less than a fourth of an inch wide. The leaves and stems are sticky to the touch and are covered with glandular-tipped hairs. Fragrant Phlox propagates by seed and by underground runners.



Photos courtesy of Marilyn Blanton (left) & Kathy Saucier (right)

Flowers and Fruit: Fragrant Phlox blooms in mid-spring, primarily April and May. Its flowers form a terminal cluster at the top of the stem. Each flower has 5 lobes and is a little more than an inch across. The flowers range from lavender-pink to lavender-purple and emit fragrance when sunlight hits them.

Planting sites: Plant Fragrant Phlox in full sun to partial or dappled sun. It will do best in clay loam or sandy loam and will tolerate some rock in its soil. As with most other Texas natives, Phlox cannot tolerate “wet feet” – it needs good drainage. Phlox works well naturalized among other natives that bloom in summer since their foliage is sparse or non-existent the rest of the year.

Watering Instructions: Similar to many other Texas natives, Fragrant Phlox will need supplemental water during the first growing season and during an extended drought. If not watered during an extended drought, the plants may go totally dormant during summer.

Comments: In addition to being grown for its lovely spring blooms and fragrance, nectar from Fragrant Phlox feeds butterflies, bees and skippers, including the American Painted Lady, Sulfur, Swallowtail, and Cloudywing butterflies. Use this perennial for spring color in place of non-native annuals.

Look for the NICE! Plant of the Season signs and information sheets on your next visit to a participating North Texas nursery. Thank you for using native plants in your landscapes.

Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas Meetings are the 4th Thursday in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sep & Oct, TWU’s ACT building 6:30 pm, 2nd floor.

What Flower Am I?

by Marilyn Blanton

I'm a brilliant native annual, known for my fiery orangy-red bracts
They are large and showy, something my small inconspicuous flowers lack

My flowers are enveloped in my bracts at the top of my hairy, upright stems
I have alternate sessile leaves that are also hairy, long and slim

I grow in open fields and prairies and along country roads and busy highways
I bloom with bluebonnets and pink evening primroses, adding color to spring days

I'm propagated from my seeds that are extremely small and fine
I prefer sandy soil, I'm drought tolerant and I love sunshine

I have a slender taproot, so I don't transplant well at all
If you want me in your garden, plant my tiny seeds in the fall

I'm hemiparasitic, which is an interesting trait
But I don't do much harm and my flowers look great

My genus name, *Castilleja*, is in honor of an eighteenth century botanist from Spain
My dipped-in-paint appearance makes my legend and common name easy to explain

What flower am I?

Answer: Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja indivisa*)



Indian paintbrush by Marilyn Blanton

NICE! NURSERIES

Four Seasons Nursery -- 3333 E. University Dr, Denton 76208
940-566-2172, www.fourseasons91.com

Main Street Home & Gardens Center – 603 Main St, Decatur 76234
940-627-0235, www.mainstreethomeandgardens.com

Meador Nursery – 2623 James St, Denton 76205
940-382-2638, www.meadornursery.com

Painted Flower Farm -- 3801 Lariat Rd, Denton 76207
940-382-3789, www.paintedflowerfarm.com

Schmitz Garden Center – 3714 Old Settlers Rd, Flower Mound 75022
972-724-3040, fax 972-724-3080, www.sgcdfw.com

Shades of Green Nursery – 8801 Coit Rd, Frisco 75035
972- 335-9095, www.shadesofgreeninc.org

Westbrook Outdoor Solutions Inc -- 1616 Arrowhead Dr, Flower Mound 75028
972-539-8103, www.westbrookoutdoorsolutions.com

HOUSTON SYMPOSIUM

It's not too early to be thinking about the fall symposium in Houston October 13-16. The theme is **Habitat CPR: Creating, Preserving, and Restoring Native Habitats in a Changing World**, featuring the Coastal Prairies and Marshes of Texas. You can book your reservations now for the convention hotel, the Omni Houston Hotel at Westside (13210 Katy Freeway and Eldridge Parkway). The on-line reservation link is now available at: <http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/HoustonWestside/MeetingFacilities/NPSOT10.aspx>. A special discounted rate of \$89.00 per night plus taxes for a Deluxe room is available to Symposium attendees. Information is also available on local RV accommodations. Book early to insure your accommodations!

The Symposium website can be accessed at www.npsot.org. Click on the Symposium logo to view a menu of all of the latest information. The call for papers deadline is May 1st. We encourage all NPSOT members to submit their proposals for papers or to encourage others to do so. Authors are invited to submit research papers, general papers on topics of interest, and "How to" articles related to "Habitat CPR". Our diverse audience will include students, educators, professionals, conservationists, and gardeners who are interested in the research, conservation, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas. Visit our website for more information, or inquire at symposium@npsot.org.

Plenary speakers for Symposium 2011 have been announced:

>**Jaime Gonzalez** (Community Education Manager, Katy Prairie Conservancy) will speak on Pocket Prairies and the use of native prairie plants in the urban landscape.

>**Mark Kramer** (Stewardship Coordinator, Armand Bayou Nature Center) will tell the compelling story of the preservation of the land surrounding Middle Bayou and its transformation into a nature center.

>**Dr. Fred Smeins** (Range Ecology Professor, Texas A & M University; leading expert on Texas Coastal Prairies and Marshes) will provide an overview of ecology of a coastal prairie.

>**Dr. John Jacob** (Professor and Extension Specialist; Director, Texas Coastal Watershed Program; co-author of "Texas Coastal Wetlands Guidebook") will provide an overview of ecology of coastal marshes.

>**Bill Neiman** (Founder and President, Native American Seed) will discuss his ground-breaking work in commercial seed collection of prairie plants and his involvement in native prairie restoration projects.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to NPSOT members and chapters as well as corporations and foundations. For more information or to suggest potential sponsors, contact symposium@npsot.org. On-line registration is targeted to begin in June, so visit the website for updates.

The Magic of Spring

Season of Discovery: written March 19

I sometimes forget how wonderful spring can be... but not just for the flowers.

It is the feeling you get when you go exploring in your yard and something new has popped out of dormancy... the excitement you get to see it emerging and growing.

My Balsam Gourd that I have babied for years has 5 stems coming up, and the Texas Clematis is like the vine monster going everywhere. Awesome! The Wild Indigo (Baptisia) is popping up with asparagus-like shoots, while my Claret Cup Cactus is getting flower buds.

These wonderful plants made it through last summer's drought and through this year's cold winter weather. That's our natives! That's one of the reasons we love them so much.

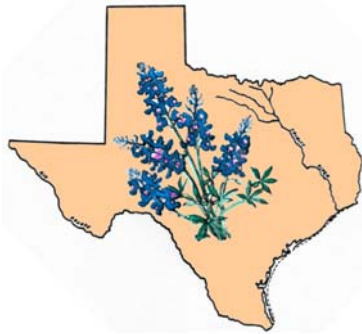
Then there is the wildlife. All the birds are serenading, attracting a mate or setting up territories; those species that will nest here and even some that are yet to leave us but have begun their singing while still here.

And the tiny creatures. I was hand watering the vegetable garden this morning with a spray-end nozzle. At first when I saw the Anole dart out of the plants into the barren dirt patch I thought I had scared it from its hiding place. As I took the water away, it darted to cover. I put the water back onto that bare patch (where seed was set in a week ago) the Anole darted out once again. That was when I realized it was licking water off the soaker hose as it gathered from my sprayer. That was the cutest thing to get to witness -- little tongue barely coming out of the mouth licking up the moisture. Then a larger male ran across another dirt area heading for my Comfrey, with its big fuzzy leaves. That's when I realized he was the second of two and they both were licking water that had gathered on the plant. All in all, my tiny vegetable garden had 5 Anoles emerging from vegetation to drink. I scared up another 3 in various other spots in the backyard and 2 more outside by the garage. That's 10 Anoles. Guess I can't say my place was "hopping" with lizards. I think the saying would be "leaping with lizards".

What fun to see the creatures and our plants thriving in our little habitats.

Kathy Saucier

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



Western Spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*) by Mike Mizell

April 2011

Trinity Forks Contact Information

President - Marshall Fox, 940-627-2343
xbfox@yahoo.com
Pres. Elect - Cecil Carter, 940-321-9527
Secretary - Fonda Fox, 940-627-2343
Treasurer - Fritz Poppe, 940-387-9351
Past Pres. -- Camelia Maier, 940-566-7913
Ways/Means - Cathy Lustgarten, 972-306-1088
(replacement needed)
Membership - Jennie Wojtaszek, 817-247-8823
- Laurie Hammett, 940-383-3287
Programs - Cecil Carter, 940-321-9527
Publicity - Cecil Carter, 940-321-9527
Education - Marilyn Blanton, 940-387-4353(B)
Outreach -- **OPEN (need a volunteer)**
Hospitality - **OPEN (need a volunteer)**
Field Trips - **OPEN (need a volunteer)**
Historian - **OPEN (need a volunteer)**
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

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!

<i>Jordan Sloop, Denton</i>	<i>Rodney Barton, Hick. Crk.</i>
<i>Brent Davidson, Flwr Mnd</i>	<i>Mike Mizell, Denton</i>
<i>Karen & Jeff Mangum, Argyle</i>	<i>Will & Mattie Evans, Dtn.</i>
<i>Becca Dickstein/Lon Turnbull, Dtn.</i>	<i>Justin Fischer, Justin</i>
<i>Kay Warmerdam, Lewisville</i>	<i>Curtis Taber, Forestburg</i>
<i>Steve & Marian Kester, Denton</i>	<i>Shirley Weems, Lindsay</i>
<i>Ruth Orpin, Denton</i>	<i>Bill & Patti Pierce, Plano</i>
<i>Camelia Maier & Geo. Roberson, Dtn</i>	<i>Judy Cole, Denton</i>

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 3rd 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.