



Trinity Forks Native Plant Press

The Newsletter of Trinity Forks Chapter
Native Plant Society of Texas

February 2011

From the Prez

I appreciate all of the members who came to our January meeting and hope that you enjoyed the program on pollinators. We have several upcoming events which I hope many of you will be able to attend. See page 2 for details on these events.

Of course, our big spring event is our plant sale at the Redbud Festival on Saturday, April 9. This is highly anticipated by customers who are lining up before we even open at 10:00. It is a great opportunity for outreach as we help people find plants that will do well in their own yards. Also, it is a great place to find plants to add to your own yard. We will need volunteers to help man our indoor informational booth and our outdoor sales booth. 3-man-products is generously donating an arbor for us to raffle. You can sell tickets or buy some for yourself.

At our January meeting I mentioned that NPSOT is embarking on one of its goals in its Strategic Plan to raise \$20,000.00 for the position of Executive Director (ED) for two years. For the last two years a consultant, Ed Conroy, has volunteered his time to help formulate the Strategic Plan, along with a committee from the State Board. The following were the recommendations from their research and deliberations. This is a quote from the State website:

"Most of the funding will come through grants from foundations and corporations throughout Texas who have a history of supporting conservation-minded organizations like NPSOT. In addition to the fundraising plans, the State Board agreed to create a development board -- also part of the Strategic Plan. The development board would be responsible for increasing the Society's fund-raising ability and raising its public profile and prestige as an organization associated with distinguished scientists, educators and civic leaders. Specifically, development board members could include representatives of corporations and foundations interested in partnerships with NPSOT, botanists and other scientists, educators, administrators of state agencies and directors or board members of other nonprofit organizations in the state who can advise Society leadership. The development board would consist of up to 12 members, nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the President.

"Assisting NPSOT with the fundraising plan is Ed Conroy, who helped Society leaders create the Strategic Plan. Conroy also helped the Society obtain a \$5,000 grant from the Dixon Water Foundation to offset part of the cost of the 2010 Symposium. At the State Board meeting, Conroy made several points.

"NPSOT seeks long-term partnerships with foundations and corporations in support of its mission and strategy. Times are tough, and competition for limited grant money is intense. An important criteria used by potential donors is to ask if the members of the requesting organization have "skin in the game." Are the organization members putting up some of the needed financing themselves? The most important measure is the number of individuals participating.

"When NPSOT does get a grant, it needs to say "thank you." This is most effective when it comes from individual members of the receiving organization. On the local level, members can participate by asking themselves what they think NPSOT can do to further its mission and what they can do to help. Members also can decide if they want to participate in the fund-raising effort by making a financial contribution above their yearly dues.

"No one in NPSOT will pressure any member to contribute, but the opportunity is available to help the Society by making a donation to show that individual members do, indeed, have "skin in the game." At press time, 100 % of the state's Executive Board, made up of all officers of the State Board, had made contributions.

"A separate bank account has been set up to accumulate funds collected to hire an executive director. To make a donation, specify that it's for the Executive Director Fund and send it to: NPSOT, P.O. Box 3017, Fredericksburg, TX 78624929. You also can donate online.

"Individuals also can help by writing the Dixon Water Foundation and letting its leaders know NPSOT members appreciate their help with the 2010 Symposium. In addition, members can express support for the creation of the executive director position. Send your "thank you" note to Robert Potts, president, at jsamford@dixonwater.org.

"Anyone with suggestions for development board nominees should send the information to the NPSOT State Office at state@npsot.org or write to the above Fredericksburg address."

I want to do this like the state recommended. Any donations can be made solely on an individual basis without any pressure. We will have donation forms available at meetings for anyone to pick one up.

Marshall Fox, TF President

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THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

General Meeting – Thursday, February 24

We hope the third time will be a charm as we try again to have Roger Sanderson from the Heard Natural Science Museum in McKinney as our speaker. 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.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, Feb 26 -- Field trip to Lee F. Jackson Spring Creek Forest Preserve at 1770 Holford Rd. in Garland to see Trout lilies. This is a unique early-blooming wildflower. The tour starts at 10:00 a.m., so we will meet to carpool and caravan in the Grandy's parking lot on Loop 288 at the Golden Triangle Mall at 8:15 a.m. and leave at 8:30 a.m. We will have maps available to pick up at the meeting on February 24 and also at Grandy's.

Monday, March 7 -- Aldo Leopold Celebration at the Flower Mound Public Library, 3030 Broadmoor at 6:45 p.m.. There will be a showing of a one-hour film called Green Fire: Aldo Leopold & a Land Ethic for Our Time! Leopold was an early conservationist and is famous for writing *A Sand County Almanac*. Our chapter will have a display table there. We have at least 19 members in Flower Mound, so this would be a good place to meet some like-minded neighbors. SEATING IS LIMITED. CALL THE LIBRARY BY FEBRUARY 28 AT 972-874-6165 TO MAKE RESERVATIONS.

Sunday, April 17 -- Joint field trip with the Wichita Falls Chapter to the LBJ Grasslands in Wise County led by Kathy Saucier. This should be a great time to get outside and see some beautiful wildflowers. Rain date will be Sunday, May 1.
More details next month.

Home Garden Tour -- We are making plans to have a tour of home gardens this spring also. We will have set a date for it by our February meeting. We still could use two or three members to volunteer to let us see what they have done with native plants.

... .. ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

POT UP PLANTS NOW!!!!

The NPSOT Trinity Forks Plant Sale at the Denton Redbud Festival is just around the corner, April 9th. I know that seems far away especially in light of the recent ice and snowstorms and the fact most plants have gone into deep hiding, but in a short time, warmer temps will have plants beginning to sprout. So first of March, walk your yard, write down what you have and how many, then **tell me what you "think" you can provide, now.**

Plants need 3-4 weeks to heal from transplanting so they look good at the sale. **Please don't wait until a**

week before the sale. Wilted leafless plants don't sell well, and we don't want our customers to buy something that dies & then gives us & natives a bad name. **So dig in early March!**

Let us know if you need pots or if you have excess pots.

Once you have them potted, then PLEASE let me know what your species and count is. Refer to the plant lists on our website and give me the **species name along with your common name.** Go to <http://www.npsot.org/TrinityForks/TrinityForksWeb/plants.html> If your plant is not on this list, please contact me to seek approval from the committee.

We will also get a supply of consignment plants from Painted Flower Farm and Shades of Green, where we can obtain species we cannot get through you our members. **We need to know what you are bringing in order to make these arrangements with the nurseries.**

Be part of your chapter's largest event & grand fundraiser. People of the community look forward to our Redbud Festival sale & return year after year for our plants.

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

We also need **workers** at the sale. Sign up to work a shift at the meeting or contact Cathy Lustgarten at drgoodrad@verizon.net or Fonda Fox xbfox@yahoo.com. Come out and have some fun with us!

Thank you to all for your help.

Kathy Saucier, plant sale inventory keeper

More from Marshall

If you have seeds, we need them too. Cathy Lustgarten will have seed envelopes available at our February and March meetings.

Also this year we need someone with a pickup or maybe a large SUV who would be able to pick up plants from Shades of Green in Frisco sometime on Friday, April 8 and bring them to the plant sale early Saturday morning. The same person would have to be responsible for returning the leftovers to the nursery after the sale closes at 4:00 p.m. These consignment plants really help us raise a lot of money for our chapter. Kathy will not be able to order plants from Shades of Green if we do not have a way to transport them. It's a great opportunity for some newer member to contribute who may not feel comfortable working at the plant sale itself if they don't think they know enough about plants yet.

Also, Keep Denton Beautiful will be having informational speakers giving talks of less than 20 minutes throughout the day. We have been invited to provide some of those speakers. The contact, Mendie Schmidt, suggested such topics as organic gardening, or tree care or pruning, or landscaping to attract wildlife. Marshall Fox has volunteered to give one on backyard habitat for birds. Other topics that you might come up with might be welcome too. We were told that it should not push a product or organization. If you can help with that, you can contact Mendie at Mendie.Schmidt@cityofdenton.com.

Spring Plant Sale photos from 2008 & 2009 by Kathy Saucier



... "Wildflowers-of-Texas"

by Dorothy Brown Thetford

Common name: Possumhaw, Deciduous holly, or Winterberry

Scientific name: *Ilex decidua*

Family: Aquifoliaceae (Holly family)

Are you looking for the gift that remains special long after the giving, always brings memories of the donor, is appreciated year after year, and is a native of Texas? How about a valentine gift found in your local nursery ... a small tree from the holly family, commonly called Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)

Possumhaw is capable of adapting to a wide range of soils and conditions. Hollies grow in abundance in the eastern and southeastern portions of Texas; the few survivors of thievery in this area are found along fencerows, edges of woods, and creek embankments. This shrub or small tree (to 32 feet) grows well in full or partial sun.

Inconspicuous, small, greenish-white flowers bloom in the spring, with staminate and pistillate flowers occurring on separate plants. The leaves are 1-1/2 inches long by 3/4 inch wide, and deciduous, which allows the main attraction to be truly appreciated when the leaves drop.

The main attraction is not its flower, but its fruit. Berries of the female Possumhaw are 1/4 inch diameter, bright red to orange colored, and grow or cluster closely to the stems. As leaves drop in early winter, berries are exposed for their magnificent display. However, even though they are extremely attractive, they are poisonous to mankind and are known to cause vomiting, diarrhea and stupor if eaten in quantity. But, the berries are considered an important food source for our native birds. Each berry contains four to eight seeds.

Since Denton county is on the western fringe of Possumhaw's natural growing habitat, supplemental watering is suggested to assist with the moist soil requirements. Thus, every irrigated landscape could be enhanced by this native plant. It's easily conceivable that all city intersections,

parks, schools, churches, commercial and residential properties could be naturally and natively decorated for the winter holidays. Case in point, check the fruiting Possumhaw trees in the median on Fort Worth Drive between Collins Street and I-35E intersections. Our gratitude goes to Tony Lucido, Landscape Architect, TxDOT-Dallas office, for incorporating this wonderful native tree for public awareness and enjoyment in this very visual public design.

Now is the time to check local nurseries for Possumhaw. If you want the gorgeous berry display, be sure to buy the female tree, and make selection while berries are still on the tree to assure that you get the color that you prefer.

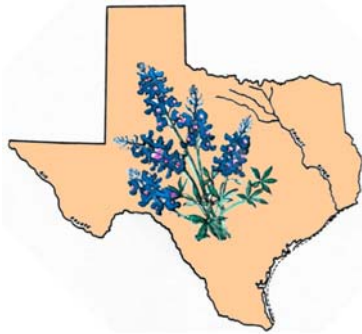
Search no more. Happy Valentine's Day!

Dorothy is a past president of Trinity Forks Chapter and a certified Master Naturalist.



Photo by Dorothy Thetford

Native Plant Society of Texas
Trinity Forks Chapter
P.O. Box 425491
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Trout Lilies by Mike Mizell

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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 - Laurie Hammett, 940-383-3287
- Jennie Wojtaszek, 817-247-8823
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
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!

*Kathy Saucier, Carrollton
Christina Wasson, Denton
Jennie Wojtaszek, Watauga
Laurie Hammett, Denton
Irene Hanson, Flower Mound*

*Sharen Arnold, Aubrey
Bobbie Ashley, Decatur
Lucianne Blakemore, Oak Pt.
Betty Bridenstine, Denton
Betty Bailey, Denton*

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.