



# Trinity Forks Native Plant Press

The Newsletter of Trinity Forks Chapter  
Native Plant Society of Texas

January 2011

## From the Prez

### Looking Back & Ahead

Greetings to all from your new chapter president. This last year was certainly a busy one with our chapter sponsoring the NPSOT state symposium, increasing our membership by 40+ new members, continuing outreach to our communities through education, service, and example, and having our most successful plant sale to date. I want to thank all of you for service in 2010 in all of our projects and endeavors in our communities, because without you we can accomplish nothing. Through our continued outreach through events like these, we reach large numbers of people in North Texas to help publicize the value and beauty of native habitats in our communities. I cannot overemphasize the value of reaching out to different agencies such as cities, public and private schools, counties, colleges, industries, and the Texas Department of Transportation and other organizations and telling them how much we appreciate anything that they have done or could do to preserve or improve native habitat. Call them on the phone, send a letter, or an e-mail and say how you love to see native plants such as roadside wildflowers or plantings of native plants in parks, parking lots or where ever they may be.

At our meeting January 27, we will be celebrating the 21st anniversary of our chapter, which formed in 1990. We will serve cake, but the former Hospitality Committee chairperson is the new secretary, and is resigning as committee chair. We have openings for chair-people for Field Trips, Hospitality, Historian, and Ways and Means (Plant Sale). This is an excellent time for both old and new members to look for a way to serve in our own organization and to take an interest in service. Just talk to any committee chairperson (listed on page 4) and ask them what you could do to help them in some small way.

We also have some unfinished business from last year in updating our Bylaws and Officers' duties. If any of you have any input we would love to hear from you. The mission statement has not changed. We are already planning activities for this year in support of it. We will have a field trip to see trout lilies in Garland on Sat., Feb. 26. So save the date for that. We are planning a joint field trip to the LBJ Grasslands with the Wichita Falls chapter on a Sunday in April. See if you have a friend or two that you can invite to accompany you on an outing like this. And very importantly, save Sat., April 9 for our plant sale at the Redbud Day Festival. This is our biggest outreach event of the year. Once again we will have both an indoor informational booth and our plant sale booth

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outside. So we will need plenty of volunteers to help on the day of the sale. Even if you are a new member and don't think that you know enough about native plants yet to help, we can find something for you to do, and it is a great way to learn from more experienced members. We have a donation of an arbor from 3-Man Products, for which we will be selling raffle tickets, with the drawing occurring that day. We can use packets of native seed that you have collected for the sale, along with native plants that you are able to donate to the sale. We will have one or more nurseries that very generously make consignment plants available to us. Friday afternoon we will need some people to help with the set up of signs. Early Sat. morning we will be busy unloading plants, giving them price markers, and getting them to their spots -- all before our eager fans arrive. Then we will help people find appropriate plants, help them checkout, and sometimes help them to their car. There will be more details on all of this later.

We plan to have another workshop at TWU on Flickr and the herbarium soon. We are looking for yards or gardens to feature in a home tour field trip in May, which is always fun. Dorothy Thetford will be scheduling several outreach events throughout the year, for which she would love to have volunteer helpers. Don't let a busy schedule stop you from serving. Find an area that is meaningful to you and then incorporate service into your routine. Can you make volunteer work a family habit? Can you fit it into your lunch hour? Can you invite a friend to attend one of our meetings? Members are always welcome to attend the executive board meetings, which this year will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in TWU's Graduate Research Building on the second floor. I hope to meet everyone at one of our field trips, program meetings, or other events this year.

*Marshall Fox, TF President*

## THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

### General Meeting – Thursday, January 27

The program for this month will be the makeup for the one scheduled for last October. Our speaker will be 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. 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 5½ 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.

## JOIN NPSOT YAHOO-GROUPS LISTS

If you are not already a member of these Yahoo-Groups lists, you might find them interesting and an additional avenue for learning.

### Local Trinity Forks List

The discussion group is used to keep members abreast of chapter news and activities and to discuss local native plant issues. You can also post to the list with your plant cultural and identification questions.

To join, send a blank email to:

[trinityforksNPSOT-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:trinityforksNPSOT-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Then follow the directions in the reply from Yahoo.

If there are problems send an email to:

[rbartontx@yahoo.com](mailto:rbartontx@yahoo.com)

### State-wide NPSOT List

Also consider joining the state-wide NSPOT-NPAT discussion group for more discussion and events information. To join this list, send a blank email to:

[NPSOT-NPAT-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NPSOT-NPAT-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Then follow the directions in the reply from Yahoo.

If there are problems send an email to:

[NPSOT-NPAT-Owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NPSOT-NPAT-Owner@yahoogroups.com)

## SMART PHONE "SOILWEB" APP

Here is a special app. developed by CA Soil Resource Lab. that provides GPS based, real-time access to USDA-NRCS soil survey data, formatted for the iPhone. This application retrieves graphical summaries of soil types associated with the iPhone's current geographic location, based on a user-defined horizontal precision. Sketches of soil profiles are linked to their official soil series description (OSD) page. This application is also available free for Android phones. You can get the SoilWeb app. for both the iPhone and the Android by going to:

<http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/drupal/node/902>

## FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITY

### Nature Hikes to the LBJ National Grasslands

On the first Wednesday of every month there is a nature hike on the Lyndon B. Johnson National Grasslands (north of Decatur). This national treasure is just 30 minutes from Denton. There are only 22 national grasslands and we are so fortunate to have one so close. Led by Mary Curry with lots of assistance from Shirley Lusk, the focus is on all of nature, including the wildflowers. Mary's specialty is the birds and of course Shirley's is the wildflowers and other native plants. We have several folks that are NPSOT members who regularly attend as well. With spring just around the corner, consider joining us. The group tries to visit a different unit every month, so no two field trips are the same.

Be prepared for a moderate hike of about a mile or less through tall native grasses and other flora. We don't always stick to a trail. Bring along your binocular so that you can enjoy the birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. Wear long pants, have good closed-toed hiking shoes, and bring your water. And if the chiggers are out be sure to apply some bug spray!

We meet at the Forest Service Office in Decatur on Hwy 287 just north of 380 about ¼ mile. The office is on the right hand side just past the blinking yellow light. Please be there by 8:45am. We leave the office at 9am sharp. Everyone provides their own transportation, but of course we encourage you to carpool if possible. We stay out on the grasslands 'till around 11am.

If weather is threatening, you can check with the Forest Service office at 940-627-5475 after 8am to see if the field trip has been postponed or cancelled. You can also call them if you need further directions.

The dates for upcoming hikes are February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, and June 1st. Mark your calendar and see you on the LBJ National Grasslands!

As noted in the President's Message, there will be a special trip for our group in April.

*Kathy Saucier, NICE! co-chair*



## OUTREACH REPORT

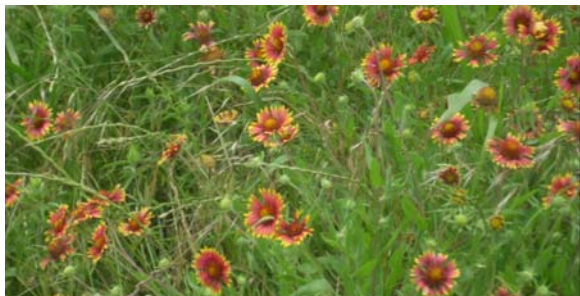
Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) garden activities were given full attention during the “Science With Attitude” (SWAt) workshop at NPSOT's fall symposium. Janet Laminack, AgriLIFE Horticulturist, gave an overview of how the unique program was developed, while Cheryl Kesterson, Master Naturalist Education Liason with DISD, provided detailed planning guidelines, which involved the Junior Master Gardeners Program. In summary, Dorothy Thetford, Trinity Forks Chapter Outreach Chair, shared details of how she and TF chapter supported five elementary school OLC garden committees by offering advice and native plants for each garden.

Hodge Elementary principal (Ms Kelley), OLC coordinator (Ms Cano), and Art teacher (Mr Gomez) were given copies of Steve Brueggerhoff's NPSOT News Education Report (pgs. 6-7) the day it arrived in Denton. By day's end, Ms Kelley had relayed Hodge's coverage to every teacher in her school. And, how many teachers did we 'reach', you ask? Sixty. Were they excited with all the recognition ??! You bet!

*Dorothy Thetford, Outreach Chair*



Janet Laminack, Cheryl Kesterson, Dorothy Thetford



Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia*) by Mike Mizell

## IN THE NEWS

### Native plant advocate logs 3000 volunteer hrs.

*Article from December 13, 2010 Denton Record-Chronicle by Les Cockrell, DR-C staff writer*

Dorothy Thetford, a certified Texas Master Naturalist since 2001, was recently recognized as the only member of the Elm Fork Chapter in Denton to have earned 3,000 volunteer hours, according to an announcement from the organization. Many of Thetford's volunteer hours were accumulated through her association with the city of Denton and the school district, a chapter spokeswoman said.

Thetford can often be found leading nature hikes through city parks and at the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center. She has participated in the “Science With Attitude” project for training and encouraging elementary teachers to engage students in outdoor environmental studies.

Thetford also is a member of the Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas and serves as outreach coordinator for that chapter. She provides advice for schools' outdoor learning areas and other programs promoting the use of native plants in landscaping.

Thetford enjoys growing and experimenting with native plants in her own garden. She also writes monthly articles for the newsletters serving the local chapters of the Master Naturalists and Native Plant Society.

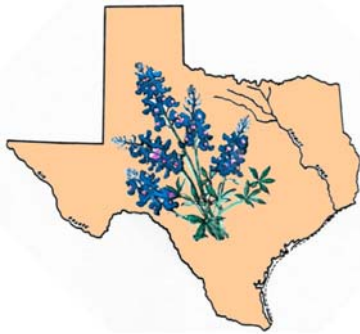
“Three thousand hours just flew by because of all of the exciting activities going on around me,” Thetford wrote in an e-mail. “And had it not been for the wonderful Texas Master Naturalists program, I would have never forced myself to record any of my volunteer hours.”

### Reminder of TF Flickr Photos

Wildflower pictures by TF members can be viewed on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tfcnpsot/>. Our Flickr logo is a photo of the Texas bluebonnet, *Lupinus texensis* (*Fabaceae*), and our e-mail address is [trinityforks@yahoo.com](mailto:trinityforks@yahoo.com). The current administrator of the site is George Roberson (son of Camelia Maier), and he will be more than happy to receive your input and guide you in learning more about Flickr. Please, visit our Flickr site, comment on the photos, print some of them if you recognize yourself in those frames, and more importantly send in your own pictures at the e-mail address above to be posted on our site. Also, visit the photos of our contacts, other Texas native-plant lovers, some of them your own friends or acquaintances, and view a collection of favorite native plants as a slide show. Flickr is a way to share photos and comments plus identify and learn about native plants and stay in touch with our large Texas native plant family. Please, enjoy and contribute to our site.

*Camelia Maier, TF Past-President*

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Trinity Forks Chapter  
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Bluebonnet Flickr Logo by Camelia Maier

January 2011

### Trinity Forks Contact Information

**President** - Marshall Fox, 940-627-2343  
[xbfox@yahoo.com](mailto: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  
- JennieWojtaszek, 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](mailto: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 since October and hope to see you at the next meeting. You are what makes Trinity Forks special!

Tim & Helen Young, Flower Mound  
Brigid Corbett, Denton  
Jared Martin, Flower Mound  
Norma Lopez, Carrollton  
Diana Block & Dan Mauldin, Denton  
Elinor Hughes, 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 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.*

## Small understory shrub with winter berries: Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)

**Description:** Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), also called Indian Currant, Snowberry or Buckbush, is in the Honeysuckle family. It is native to the eastern part of Texas, west to the western Cross Timbers and south to the Edwards Plateau. It is a small deciduous woody shrub, growing to 2 to 4 feet tall, with a mounding to sprawling growth habit. It has opposite dull-green leaves that can be up to 2 inches long, but are usually less than 1 inch long. The leaves are smooth and oval. Coralberry may shed its bark on older wood. Coralberry is rhizomatous – it forms runners; thus, Coralberry may form colonies.



Photo courtesy of Kathy Saucier

**Flowers and Fruit:** Coralberry has indistinct ¼ inch pinkish-white flowers in the summer. Some of Coralberry’s ornamental value comes from the clusters of reddish-lavender to bright pink ¼ inch berries that remain on the plant throughout the winter.

**Planting sites:** Coralberry does best in partial and dappled shade, but also tolerates a mostly-sun condition. It prefers loamy and rocky soils, but will tolerate other conditions as long as it has good drainage. Avoid planting Coralberry in areas where it may experience “wet feet” or it may rot. Wet conditions may also lead to mildew on the leaves; this usually does not damage the plant.

**Watering Instructions:** Like most Texas natives, Coralberry will need supplemental water during the first growing season. After it is established, it will thrive with existing rainfall. It is very drought tolerant.

**Comments:** In the wild, Coralberry is often found as an understory shrub in Post-Oak woods. In the garden, Coralberry is grown for its clusters of berries that provide winter interest. It also provides cover for birds and is the larval food for the Snowberry Clearwing Moth. Consider using Coralberry as an alternative to Nandina cultivars in your landscape.

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.

# NICE! NURSERIES

## Participating:

Four Seasons Nursery, 3333 E. University Dr, Denton, TX 76208,  
940-566-2172 [www.fourseasons91.com](http://www.fourseasons91.com)

\*Katie's Nursery & Produce, 198 Arena Lane, Era, TX 76238,  
940-665-6255

\*Lavender Ridge Farms – 2391 CR 178, Gainesville, TX 76240,  
[www.lavenderridgefarms.com](http://www.lavenderridgefarms.com)

Main Street Home & Gardens Center – 603 Main St, Decatur, TX 76234,  
940-627-0235 [www.mainstreethomeandgardens.com](http://www.mainstreethomeandgardens.com)

Meador Nursery – 2623 James St, Denton, TX 76205,  
940-382-2638 [www.meadornursery.com](http://www.meadornursery.com)

Painted Flower Farm - 3801 Lariat Rd, Denton, 76207,  
940-382-3789 [www.paintedflowerfarm.com](http://www.paintedflowerfarm.com)

Schmitz Garden Center – 3714 Old Settlers Rd, Flower Mound, 75022,  
972-724-3040, fax 972-724-3080 [www.sgcdfw.com](http://www.sgcdfw.com)

Shades of Green Nursery – 8801 Coit Rd, Frisco, TX 75035,  
972-335-9095 [www.shadesofgreeninc.org](http://www.shadesofgreeninc.org)

Westbrook Outdoor Solutions Inc - 1616 Arrowhead Dr, Flower Mound, TX 75028,  
972-539-8103, [www.westbrookoutdoorsolutions.com](http://www.westbrookoutdoorsolutions.com)

\* Closed for the winter and therefore is NOT carrying this plant.