

Trinity Forks Native Plant Press

The Newsletter of Trinity Forks Chapter
Native Plant Society of Texas

May 2011

From the Prez.

Well, we are winding down for the Summer recess where we will not meet after May until September, but we still have Field Trips on May 21st for the Denton Tour of Homes & May 28th for a workshop on how to use the Flickr site given at TWU by Dr. Maier and also in August we will have the Ice Cream Social. So continue to read the updates in our newsletters. The Board approved changes to the TF Chapter's Job Descriptions and updated a lot of Committee duties. We still have a number of Committee Chairs that need to be filled for next year and look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting.

Marshall Fox, TF President

Yard Tour, May 21

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 delightful finger foods, grilled and cold. 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.** If you need last-minute directions, call Mike Mizell on his cell phone at 940-391-4473.

This Month's Program

General Meeting – Thursday, May 26

Russell L. Stevens from the Noble Foundation in Ardmore, OK will present a program on "**Native Grasses.**" Stevens has authored numerous books and publications, including:

- *Grasses of Southern Oklahoma & North Texas*
- *Trees, Shrubs & Vines: A Pictorial Guide*
- *Quality of Native Plant Forage Species Important to White-tailed Deer & Goats in South Central Oklahoma and How Much Does It Cost to Burn?*

Stevens joined the Noble Foundation in 1989. He is a regional manager and a wildlife and fisheries consultant in the Agricultural Division's consultation program. His areas of interest include grasses-range management, plant identification, wildlife habitat improvement, wild turkey management, white-tailed deer management, prescribed fire, and waterfowl issues. Stevens is a certified wildlife biologist by The Wildlife Society, a certified range management consultant by the Society for Range Management and a certified professional in rangeland management by the Society for Range Management. He holds a B.S. degree in biology, from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and a M.S. degree from Angelo State University.

The meeting will be in our usual location in the Clock Tower Bldg.

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Meeting time/location & mission statement

... Spring Plant Sale Update

After identifying a few more expenses associated with the plant sale, the final profit came to \$3838. Again, a very big 'Thank You' to everyone who helped with what was another very successful plant sale.

... Calling All Amateur Scientists

Here are two citizen scientist opportunities to help TP&WL researchers.

1) Climate change data. I'm on the prowl for phenology data, the longer the records the better, that I might use to examine climate change impacts. I've heard from folks that keep bird or butterfly records, for example, but I have yet to find anyone who's been monitoring plant activity such as budding, flowering, fruiting, etc. Would it be possible to put my request out to your members for such data – surely someone has been keeping records. Anyone with information or questions can contact:

Wendy Gordon, PhD
Program Leader
Nongame & Rare Species
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
(512) 389-8741

2) Help track bumblebees in Texas. Please report sightings of bumblebees to help determine the level of populations in Texas. Go to <http://texasbumblebees.com/> for details. There is an accompanying Facebook page. Respond through the website or contact:

Michael D. Warriner
Invertebrate Biologist
Wildlife Diversity Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
ofc: 512.389.8759
cell: 512.983.2650



Bumblebee on Zinnia from website above

May 28 Training on Flickr

If you are interested in learning how to access wildflower photos posted by TF members on Flickr or to even post your own photos there, come to a training session at TWU Graduate Research Bldg. (GRB) (2nd bldg. south from the Clock Tower) on Oakland St. at 10am, Sat, May 28. Come to Room 328. Also, view flower parts with a scanning electron microscope and the work being done by students in digitizing the TWU herbarium specimens to make them available on-line. These activities will be led by Dr. Camelia Maier, her son George Roberson, and her graduate student, Pallavi Upadhyay. This is a fun and informative training event.

April Field Trip Report

Sunday, April 17, members of the Wichita Falls and Trinity Forks chapters gathered to explore some of the LBJ National Grasslands for wildflowers and native plants. A total of 15 members from the two chapters participated and were treated to a hidden population of shooting stars. Although wildflowers were sparse this year, there were still some beauties to see. See photos by Kathy Saucier below and on following pages.

-- Kathy Saucier



Foxglove (*Penstemon cobeia*)



↑ Fritz Poppe and his found trash art

➤ Indian Turnip/Scurf Pea
(*Pediomelum cuspidatum*)



Ratany (*Krameria lanceolata*)





↑ Wright's Skullcap (*Scutellaria wrightii*)

Maidenhair fern
in a seep area ↗

Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum with petrified
drupes from last year ↘

↓ Rushes in seep area where the springs
still flow despite the drought there.



Heat tolerant summer blooms: Texas Lantana, *Lantana urticoides*

Description: *Lantana urticoides*, Texas Lantana is a small- to medium-sized shrub native to central and south Texas. It can grow as tall as 6 feet and as wide as 5-6 feet; it takes well to pruning and most garden specimens are usually kept smaller than this. It has egg-shaped leaves with serrated margins, 1 to 2 1/2 inches long. The leaves are opposite, rough to the touch and very aromatic.



Photo courtesy of Kathy Saucier

Flowers and Fruit: The flowers of Texas Lantana appear in rounded clusters at the ends of long paired stems, usually extending above the leaves. They are tubular with flaring lobes, similar to verbena, and bloom until frost. Each flower on Texas Lantana changes so you will see a mixture of color on a single flower cluster. The ¼ inch fruits are blue-black to black.

Planting sites: Texas Lantana thrives in areas that receive full sun. It can also be grown in light shade. Texas Lantana grows best in sandy or gravelly soils, but will tolerate other soil types. Do not plant it where it will experience “wet feet” or it may rot.

Watering Instructions: Similar to many other Texas natives, Texas Lantana will need supplemental water during the first growing season. After it is established, it is extremely drought tolerant and can survive on existing rainfall.

Comments: Texas Lantana is the xeric plant of choice for areas that receive full sun, even hot reflected sun. It flowers consistently and continually from mid-summer until frost. It attracts hummingbirds as well as a wide range of butterflies and beneficial insects. Many birds will eat its fruit. Once established, it requires virtually no care except pruning. Its woody stems should be cut back at the end of winter to keep it compact, and periodically during its growing season because it flowers on new wood.

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 drought tolerant, native, perennial mallow that can be grown with ease
My lovely, two-inch, cup-shaped, vivid magenta flowers are sure to please
My blooms have five petals, five sepals, three linear bracts and a center stamen tube fused at its base
Laden with white pollen they attract pollinating bees as they sway gently in the breeze with grace
Atop slender stems my flowers only stand a foot tall, but my trailing stems extend several feet out
I have palmately veined, deeply lobed leaves and an enlarged root from which my stems sprout
I bloom from early spring to early summer and occasionally in the fall, when conditions are right
I'm found growing wild in sandy, gravelly, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade, making a pretty sight
I have tightly packed, flat round seeds that form like spokes in little green wheels
They mature, dry and turn brown before they split to let my seeds spill
Don't worry if I go dormant in summer's heat and seem to totally disappear
Because I'll make a new appearance as a rosette for the winter as autumn days draw near
My genus name means "beautiful flowing", derived from Kallirrhoe, which is a Greek word
Indeed, when I'm in full bloom, it's like beautiful cups of wine have magically occurred

Ans: Winecup

Callirhoe involucrata

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

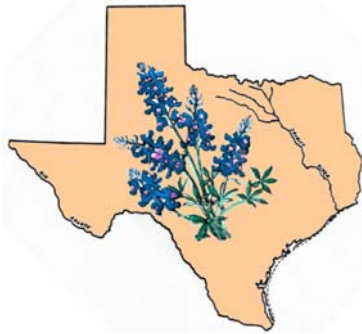
Shades of Green Nursery – 8801 Coit Rd, Frisco 75035
972- 335-9095, www.shadesofgreeninc.org

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



Winecup by Marilyn Blanton

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



Bumblebee on coneflower
from <http://texasbumblebees.com>

May 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!

Bill Freiheit, Denton
Bob Harris, Celina
Warren & Eileen Short, Denton
Cheryl Kesterson, Denton
Don & Patricia Edwards, Denton
Mark Chapin, Argyle
Carolyn P. Norgaard, Argyle
Karen Schoeve, Argyle

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.