



## From the Prez.

We are coming back from our summer break from meetings. As we get back into our everyday routines, our NPSOT leadership needs every member to consider volunteer service in one of our officer or committee positions. President-elect Cecil Carter will be chairing our September board and program meetings. Please contact him if you can serve in any capacity.

We have upcoming opportunities for outreach, both on Saturday, October 1. We have been invited to have informational tables at Keep Flower Mound Beautiful's Going Green Clean Up Day at Lowe's parking lot, along with the Fall Garden InfoFest held at Denton Bible Church's parking lot. These are excellent outreach opportunities which have come up, but Marshall and Fonda Fox obligated themselves earlier for this same date. Not currently having an Outreach chairman, we do not have anyone assigned to plan and organize participation in either or both of them. These one time only events only require a couple of hours of commitment each, but from several people. We already have materials available that could be used on the tables. Please contact Cecil Carter if you can help with either of these.

In addition, our Symposium will be the second weekend in October at the Omni Hotel in Houston. Cecil Carter just attended the state board meeting there and reported that it is a wonderful venue, reasonably priced, and easy to get to. You can register online at the state website [www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org) or print up a form and mail it in. We have an opportunity to set up a chapter booth there also. If anyone would like to help with that, let Marshall Fox know. Marshall will have room to take items down in his car, if need be.

Texas Native Plant Week is celebrated the following week, October 16-22. Marilyn Blanton and Cynthia Maguire are planning to have a student native plant art contest again in celebration of that week. Let either one of them know if you would like to help them with that.

Chapter officers need to be nominated at our September general meeting. Then nominations are taken from the floor again at the October meeting and the election is held then. Critical openings are for Secretary, Treasurer, and President-elect. Descriptions of duties are available on our chapter web-site in the bylaws. Also, we need people to serve as committee chairmen or members on committees. Chairmen are needed for the Outreach, Field Trips, Programs, Publicity, Membership, Grants, and Historian committees. According to Cecil Carter, Programs is one of the easiest chairmanships. Field Trips should be very easy since we have lots of information on field trips put together for the Symposium last year. Not everyone could attend them all, so we could just re-do some of them for the entire membership. New chairmen will be able to get instruction, advice and tips from previous chairmen.

We always have wonderful support from members and even non-members at our spring plant sale. We really appreciate that support, but could also use some help in these other areas, too.

We just turned in our annual report to the State NPSOT. We were in the eight chapters that met the deadline to turn it in out of 33 chapters. It was hard to cut it down to the required one page. We had a very successful State Symposium, with lots of member help on that. Dorothy Thetford also has a successful program of cooperating with several elementary school Outdoor Learning Centers, introducing kids to native plants. Dorothy is no longer Outreach Chair, but will continue working with the schools. Tom Kirwan and Dorothy helped organize information tables at quite a few different events this year, most recently at the Flower Mound Public Library's screening of Wildflowers: Seeds of History. Over 100 people attended that event. Our spring plant sale was the most profitable so far and is an outstanding way to introduce people to the concept of using native plants in their home landscapes. Our best-attended field trip was this May to five home gardens incorporating natives in them. About 30 members and non-members attended, showing that we have a great interest in this area.

We have just had a very dry summer and hopefully will get some rain this fall and winter. But even without additional water a lot of our native plants will be able to pull through. Seed banks should help re-establish areas where plants didn't make it. We need to make ourselves more visible to the general public and create partnerships with other organizations involving plants, water and resource conservation, and educate people about sustainability using native plants. 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 energy needs, water availability, sustainability and environmental protection.

*Marshall Fox, TF President*

## THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

### General Meeting – Thursday, Sep. 22

Sandra Greenway, Executive Director of the Connemara Conservancy, will present our program on the native plants found at the Conservancy's preserve in Plano. Greenway is well respected throughout the conservancy community for her work in meadow preservation. She noted, "This is a great experience for people who love nature and love to see native plants in an urban setting. The hiking trails provide easy access to nature lovers. When Frances Williams donated her family's beloved 72-acre meadow, the Connemara Meadow Preserve, in 1981, it became the foundation of today's conservancy. Now, the Connemara land trust oversees 3,500 acres of North Texas land under its purview. The Connemara provides the public with stellar activities in the Meadow and offers an emerging Ecological Literacy program. "

## SAVE WATER WITH NATIVES

This letter to the editor by Becca Dickstein appeared in the Denton Record Chronicle on Tuesday, September 13, 2011.

### Saving precious water

On Sept. 2, the Denton Record-Chronicle reported that Tim Fisher, Denton's assistant director of water utilities, attributed Robson Ranch's higher-than-city average consumption of water to the widespread use of automatic irrigation systems and a homeowners' association rule requiring irrigated lawns. Our region is plagued by periodic droughts, such as the one that we are experiencing this year. Thus, in North Texas, requiring irrigated lawns makes no sense and wastes one of our most precious resources: water.

Lawns are known water hogs; fortunately there are great alternatives available, including the use of water-thrifty native Texas plants in our landscapes and gardens.

Forbidding homeowners' associations from requiring water-intensive landscapes is a first step toward lowering water usage.

Please, would Denton's City Council pass an ordinance forbidding homeowners' associations from requiring water-intensive landscaping?

## NEW NATIVE PLANT BLOG

This was posted back in June, but is an on-going project.

Greetings. I'm a twelve-year member of the Austin chapter of NPSOT. My particular interest is in the photography of native plants. Although there are plenty of blogs about plants in general, and rural life, and ecology, and gardening, and photography of various types, I found nothing quite along the lines of what I do, so I recently started a blog of my own highlighting the photography of Texas native plants. You can see what I'm doing at:

<http://portraitsofwildflowers.wordpress.com>

I'm hoping you'll find it of interest to your members and will let them know about it.

In spite of the drought, I've been out in the heat taking lots of native plant pictures.

Thanks.

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## PARTICIPATING NICE! NURSERIES

### Four Seasons Nursery

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

### Meador Nursery

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

### Painted Flower Farm

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

### Schmitz Garden Center

3714 Old Settlers Rd, Flwr. Mnd, 972-724-3040  
[www.sgcdfw.com](http://www.sgcdfw.com)

### Shades of Green Nursery

8801 Coit Rd, Frisco, 972- 335-9095  
[www.shadesofgreeninc.org](http://www.shadesofgreeninc.org)

### Westbrook Outdoor Solutions, Inc.

1616 Arrowhead Dr, Flwr. Mnd, 972-539-8103  
[www.westbrookoutdoorsolutions.com](http://www.westbrookoutdoorsolutions.com)

## **Showy Fall Blooming Perennial: Maximilian Sunflower, *Helianthus maximiliani***

**Description:** *Helianthus, maximiliani*, Maximilian Sunflower is a tall native prairie perennial found throughout Texas. Although it usually reaches 4 to 6 feet tall, it can grow to as little as 1 foot in a dry area or as tall as 10 feet in a moist one. Each plant will grow into a large colony with multiple stems. Leaves are alternating, sickle-shaped, and grayish-green and are 4-8 inches long, often folded. It was named for Prince Maximilian von Wied-Neuwied, a German naturalist who explored the American West in the 1830s. Like many perennials in North Texas, it goes dormant over the winter.

**Flowers and Fruit:** Usually blooming in September and October, Maximilian Sunflower's golden yellow flowers are found in spikes and can be few or numerous, depending on conditions. Each flower head is 1 ½ to 3 inches across, with 15 to 19 ray flowers. The central yellow disc flowers are 1 inch across and produce abundant seed after flowering.

**Planting sites:** Maximilian Sunflower thrives in full sun and tolerates partial sun. Many people plant it at the back of the garden because of its height and the fact that as the plant grows, the lower leaves sometimes die, not a beautiful sight. Its height allows it to be used as a tall screen or used as part of a fence row. Maximilian Sunflower pairs well with tall native prairie grasses. If it grows too tall, it can be pruned during summer to 3 feet tall until mid August when the bud stalk starts to grow.

**Watering Instructions:** Maximilian Sunflower may need a little supplemental water only during its first growing season, if it's a dry year. After it is established, it is drought tolerant and can thrive on existing rainfall.

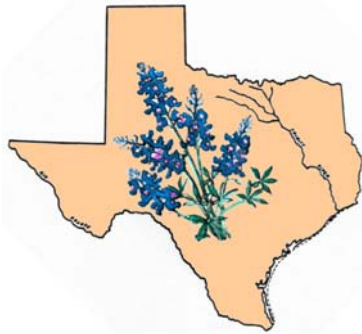
**Comments:** Maximilian Sunflower is truly spectacular in the fall, with its showy yellow flower spikes that bloom all at once. It attracts beneficial insects and migrating butterflies such as Monarchs and produces abundant seeds that feed many species of birds. The seed stalks may be left standing through winter for birds to feed on, then trimmed back to the ground before new-season's growth begins.

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.



Photo courtesy of Christina Wasson

Native Plant Society of Texas  
Trinity Forks Chapter  
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Yellow Flax by Mike Mizell

## September 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** - Polly Carter, 940-321-9527  
**Membership** - **OPEN (need a volunteer)**  
**Programs** - **OPEN (need a volunteer)**  
**Publicity** - **OPEN (need a volunteer)**  
**Education** - Marilyn Blanton, 940-387-4353(B)  
**Outreach** -- **OPEN (need a volunteer)**  
**Hospitality** - Fonda Fox, 940-627-2343  
**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 in recent months and hope to see you at the next meeting. You are what makes Trinity Forks special!

Dorothy & Alan Thetford, Denton	Don Smith, Denton
John E. Vandigriff, Carrollton	Fritz Poppe, Denton
Marshall & Fonda Fox, Decatur	Hugh Garnett, Pottsboro
Douglas Chadwick, Aubrey	Pete Kamp, Denton
Carolyn Kohls, Whitewright	Caroline Polliard, Denton
Cecil & Polly Carter, Shady Shores	Tim May, Hickory Crk.
Marilyn Lawson, Flower Mound	Justin Fischer, Justin
Dave & Marilyn Martin, Denton	Melanie Morgan, 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.*