



From the Prez.

Polly and I just took our biannual winter trip to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge to view Whooping Cranes and other waterfowl. Of course it was exhilarating to see the cranes, but it was distressing to see the effects of the drought. Drought reduces the river flows into the bays, which raises the salinity of the bays. This kills off a lot of the blue crabs in the estuaries, which reduces the food supplies for the Whooping Cranes. These cranes must consume blue crabs to survive. Many birds have been lost due to starvation. There is a prediction that within the next 20 years, given current consumption, drought and population growth, water in our rivers will be over-subscribed.

Everyone in NPSOT knows that the most pressing issue concerning many towns is the use of water for home landscaping. As many of you know, I am on a local water board, and today it is estimated that some 60% of our fresh water supplies go to irrigation use in the summer. Most of it goes onto our home landscapes to water grass. We all know that native plants could help reduce water consumption. This is an advocacy opportunity.

The compulsion to have lush green lawns has another effect on our water supply. Chemical fertilizers used on lawns, in overabundance, flows into streams, rivers and lakes. On the coast, there had been an enormous die off of fish from a "red tide", an algae bloom, in the bays. This recent "red tide" was probably helped along by over application of chemical fertilizers by farmers, which eventually is leached into the streams and rivers and into reservoirs, aquifers and then the bays.

Areas where water supplies come from underground are vulnerable to "pollution" from lawn chemicals too. Basically any and everything we put on our lawns to fertilize or control weeds and insects, eventually makes its way to reservoirs or the aquifers. Where else can it go?

Invasives are not just in the plant world. While on our trip, we read in the newspaper that "tiger shrimp", a

species of large shrimp from Asia, has been found in the Gulf. Just like in the plant world, these invasives out-compete smaller native shrimp because they have no natural enemies. Invasives of all kinds consume resources at a high rate. In the plant world, they need more nutrients and water, further depleting resources available.

Something always interesting to Polly and me on the 400 mile drive to the coast is the change in ecological zones. Plants native to the coastal plains give it quite a distinct regional identity. With the exception of Live oaks and willows, natives to the coastal region are certainly different from those at home. But, in Goose Island State Park, there is a 1,000+ year old Live oak! The trunk is 36' in circumference. Polly and I planted a Live oak in our yard about 12 years ago; we probably will not see it to that size.

We look forward to seeing you at the January chapter meeting.

Cecil Carter

This Month's Program

General Meeting – Thursday, January 26

A program on "Landscaping with Natives" will be presented by Paul Dowlearn. Paul is well known in Wichita Falls gardening circles. He and his wife Nila have owned and operated the Wichita Valley Nursery and Landscape Company for the past 27 years. He is also a published author and has his own radio shows: "Gardenline" and "The Hometown Gardener" in Wichita Falls. His vast knowledge is respected throughout the area. Dowlearn said, "Our organization provides a turnkey landscaping project using only native plants. We think it is unique in our area."

Paul has been a member of NPSOT for 16 years and is a charter member and past president of the Red River Chapter. He and Nila designed and built the River Bend Nature Center where the 2009 NPSOT symposium was held.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

The new state V-P Chapter Liaison is our very own Cathy Lustgarten. She will be striving to get chapters to share good ideas in order to make all chapters and our state organization stronger and more effective.

She is encouraging EVERY chapter to send a representative(s) to the state board meetings this year. Our state-wide organization thrives on the ideas and energy brought to the quarterly meetings by board members from all over the state. Conversely, the quarterly meetings are a great place to meet fellow NPSOT leaders, exchange ideas for things to take back to your own chapter, and thus a way to stimulate and strengthen the local chapter. The camaraderie also is always something to look forward to.

Finally, she is looking for additional people willing to serve on the chapter liaison committee. There are currently committee members from Fredericksburg and from Quitman, Representatives from other geographic areas are needed. If anyone is interested in helping develop a chapter support network, please let Cathy know at drgoodrad@verizon.net or 972-306-1088.

AN INSIDE LOOK

The State NPSOT Board will be meeting in Ft. Worth on January 21st. This is an open meeting and any member is welcome to attend and hear what will be planned by the board. It's rare for the board to meet away from the headquarters in Fredericksburg, so it's a golden opportunity for anyone in north Texas to see how the organization operates. The meeting will take place at the Ft. Worth Botanical Gardens, which is worth the trip just by itself. Since there is no free lunch anywhere, there will be a charge for lunch.

SPRING PLANT SALE

It's time to start thinking about our Spring Plant Sale – It will be here before we know it. The Denton Redbud Festival and the Trinity Forks [TF] annual plant sale is on April 21st this year. Last year TF had record sales. There were 29 volunteers from our chapter. Since the sale is going to be three weeks later than in 2011, it will be warmer and hopefully will not conflict with events usually taking place at TWU. Kathy Saucier has a master list of plants we

would like to offer for sale this year. Check the lists on-line to see what plants we need and what plants are allowed. We had a lot of plants left over last year, and that can be a waste if organizations don't take them, so we want to be sure all of our plants find a good home.

Polly Carter

FREE POTTING SOIL

With our plant sale coming up, we are re-running this as a reminder of the procedure to follow in getting free potting soil from Painted Flower Farm that you can use in potting plants for the sale or simply for your own use. The soil is from their compost heap, which is made of high quality potting soil and residual fertilizer. There is plenty to go around. Here are the guidelines for picking it up:

1. Come during business hrs: 8am-1pm wkdays.
2. Contact Anthony Lyle ahead of time at 940-382-3789 or anthonylyle88@gmail.com.
3. Take as much as you like!

PFF is located at 3801 Lariat Rd. in Denton. That's west of I-35 and just north of Hwy 380, across from Selwyn School.

See the next page for the new NICE! plant.

PARTICIPATING NICE! NURSERIES

Four Seasons Nursery

3333 E. University Dr, Denton, 940-566-2172
www.fourseasons91.com

Meador Nursery

2623 James St, Denton, 940-382-2638
www.meadornursery.com

Painted Flower Farm

3801 Lariat Rd, Denton, 940-382-3789
www.paintedflowerfarm.com

Schmitz Garden Center

3714 Old Settlers Rd, Flwr. Mnd, 972-724-3040
www.sgcdfw.com

Shades of Green Nursery

8801 Coit Rd, Frisco, 972- 335-9095
www.shadesofgreeninc.org

Westbrook Outdoor Solutions, Inc.

1616 Arrowhead Dr, Flwr. Mnd, 972-539-8103
www.westbrookoutdoorsolutions.com

Fragrant ornamental tree for part-sun to sun: Mexican Plum, *Prunus mexicana*

Description: Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*) is a deciduous tree, native to the eastern part of Texas to the western Cross Timbers. It usually reaches 8-15 feet tall, with a rounded crown; rare specimens have been measured as tall as 25 feet. Mexican Plum does not sucker, but grows singly, not forming thickets as do some of the other native North Texas plums. It has ovate leaves, up to 5 inches long and 2 inches wide with serrated margins and a wrinkled-looking surface texture.

Flowers and Fruit: In early spring before it leafs out, Mexican Plum is covered with fragrant white flowers that are up to one inch wide. Green fruits emerge in early summer and ripen to dark red or purple, with a whitish blush, late in the fall. The fruits are edible, although tart, and can be used to make jam.

Planting sites: Mexican Plum should be planted in dappled shade to part or full sun. It is adaptable to most soils, but like many other natives, it should not be planted where it will experience “wet feet”.

Watering Instructions: Like most Texas natives, Mexican Plum will need supplemental water during the first growing season; after it is established, it will thrive with existing rainfall. It is drought tolerant.

Comments: Mexican Plum is an outstanding addition as an ornamental tree to North Texas gardens. In addition to the very fragrant spring flowers and fall fruit, Mexican Plum is valued for its ornamental bark, which becomes dark with horizontal striations and peels off in patches as the tree matures. The fruit is eaten by birds as well as animals. For a spectacular spring display, consider planting Mexican Plum together with a Redbud tree – the two trees bloom at about the same time. Mexican Plum is a great alternative to crepe myrtle and, although smaller, is also an alternative to Bradford pear.

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.



Photos courtesy of Marilyn Blanton (top) and Kathy Saucier (bottom)

Pollinator prairie garden at LLELA needs help

Greetings fellow Native Plant Enthusiasts,

My name is Michi Harper (NPSOT member since the mid-nineties) and I am designing and installing a pollinator demonstration garden for LLELA (<http://www.ias.unt.edu/llela/main.html>). This garden will be experienced by kids on school field trips, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and their parents and teachers. As well as demonstrating pollinators and host plants, it will be a landscape demonstration garden to show how to grow prairie plants in your own backyard.

We are trying to use plants exclusively from Denton County for this project which will resemble a groomed prairie remnant as the main garden and will also include understory plants along a tree line and around a clearing.

Unfortunately, we have no budget for plants. I am counting on friends like you to advise me of plant rescue opportunities, places to collect seed, and maybe a cutting or two from your own backyard. I do hope you can help. However, we do need to know the origin of all of the plant material, in an effort to maintain the genetic integrity of the site. The point of origin for some of the rarer plants is a little more flexible, like chatterbox orchids from the next county over? Bring them on! We have a large space to fill. The garden will be over .2 acres with a path through the middle for a full on-prairie immersion experience!

Some of the plants on our wish list include: Trout Lilies (*Erythronium albidum*), Gay Feather (*Liatris* [No cultivars please]), Verbenas (No cultivars please), Pipevine seeds, Prairie Celestial bulbs, Winecups (*Callirhoe*), Passionflowers (*P. incarnata* and *P. lutea*), Willowleaf Sunflower (*H. salicifolius*), Funnel Flower (*Androstaphium coeruleum*), Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa* [No cultivars please]), Redbud (*Cercis* [No cultivars please]), Milkweeds (*A. tuberosa*, *A. linneris*, *A. stenophyla*, and *A. virdiflora*) *Astragalus*, *Tephrosia virginiana*, Wild Hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*) Death Camas (*Zigadenus nuttallii*) Snake Herb (*Dyschoriste lineris*) Blue Mist Flower (*E. coelestinum* [No cultivars please] also *E. altissimum*), Green Dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*). Anything else cool you may have that's native to Denton County.

In addition to plants, we are in need of volunteers to help plant in the spring, and to help dig plants and collect seed now, and to propagate plants in the greenhouse. We need your knowledge! Do you know how to propagate Pipevine from cuttings? We sure would like to have some Swallowtails... Do you know how to stagger the bloom times? It would be nice to have a good looking garden from season to season. Can you root Redbuds? Sow *Salvia*? We need you!!!

If you are a Master Gardener or Master Naturalist, this is an approved project.

If you would like to help in any way, shape or form, or would like more information, please contact me!

Michi Harper

M_Harper@Verizon.net

(940) 597-5141 (text)

(940) 591-8369 (home and voicemail)

Local Native Plant Art Exhibition 2011

The Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2011 features the artwork of the fourth grade students of McNair, Newton Razor and Hodge Elementary Schools. About three hundred students painted pictures of native plants. They depicted a wide variety of favorites from the bluebonnet, Indian blanket, dogwood and Mexican hat to the winecup, blue-eyed grass, prickly pear, sunflower and many more.

The Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2011 is in recognition and celebration of Texas Native Plant Week. The purpose of the art exhibition is to raise awareness and educate students about the importance of native plants in keeping with the intention of the Texas Legislature in designating the third week in October as Texas Native Plant Week. The observance is intended to emphasize the role of native plants in conservation efforts, preserve our natural heritage and provide a teaching incentive for Texas teachers.

To provide an opportunity for the community to see the artwork and expand awareness of native plants, the artwork is displayed for several months following Texas Native Plant Week. The display sites for the artwork are the Blagg-Huey Library at Texas Woman's University (mid-December-January), the Eagle Exhibit Hall in the Environmental Education Science and Technology Building at the University of North Texas (February) and all three branches of the Denton Public Libraries (March).

The Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2011 is sponsored by the Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, the Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists and the College of Arts and Sciences at Texas Woman's University. As project manager, I would like to thank everyone that has been involved with the art exhibition and helped to make it a success.

Marilyn Blanton



See pictures on the next
2 pages.

Photos from local Native Plant Art Exhibition 2011

Photos by Marilyn Blanton



Judges LaNae Colchin, Betty Mullenweg, & Mike Mizell



Judges Marilyn Blanton, Dorothy Thetford, Mike Mizell,
Fritz Poppe, LaNae Colchin, & Marian Kester.
(Judges were from Trinity Forks and/or Master Naturalists)



Dogwood - Best from Newton Razor

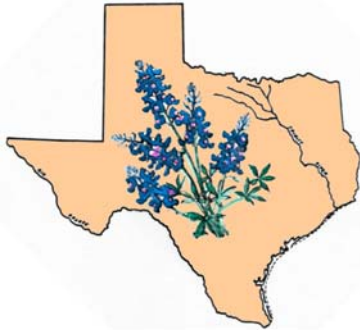


Beach Morning Glory - Best from McNair Elementary



Sunflower - Best from Hodge Elementary

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



January 2012

Part of art display at TWU Blagg-Huey Library

Trinity Forks Contact Information

President - Cecil Carter, 940-321-9527
ccarter@mscok.edu
Pres. Elect - **OPEN (need a volunteer)**
Secretary - Carolyn Hayard, 972-353-9525
Treasurer - **OPEN (need a volunteer)**
Past Pres. -- Marshall Fox, 940-627-2343
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
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 since October & hope to see you at the next meeting. You make TF special!

<i>Lucianne Blakemore, Oak Point</i>	<i>James Thurman, Denton</i>
<i>Mary McCain, Gainesville</i>	<i>Jim Smith, Aubrey</i>
<i>Trish Biedermann, Richardson</i>	<i>Norma Lopez, Carrollton</i>
<i>Diana Block & Dan Mauldin, Dtn</i>	<i>Kathleen G. Scott, Ft. Worth</i>
<i>Marian McCarley, Sherman</i>	<i>Lisa Bellows, Gainesville</i>
<i>Tim & Helen Young, Flwr Mnd</i>	<i>Christa Crowe, Denton</i>
<i>Stephanie O'Donnell, Denton</i>	<i>Elinor Hughes, Denton</i>
<i>Margie & Neal Schluter, Krum</i>	<i>Carolyn Hayward, Corinth</i>
<i>Joan B. Stanley, Highland Village</i>	<i>Dr. Ann Stuart, Denton</i>
<i>Rollie & Sue Schafer, Denton</i>	<i>Jeanne Erickson, Bowie</i>
<i>Carolyn Kohls, Whitewright</i>	<i>Mary Curry, Greenwood</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.