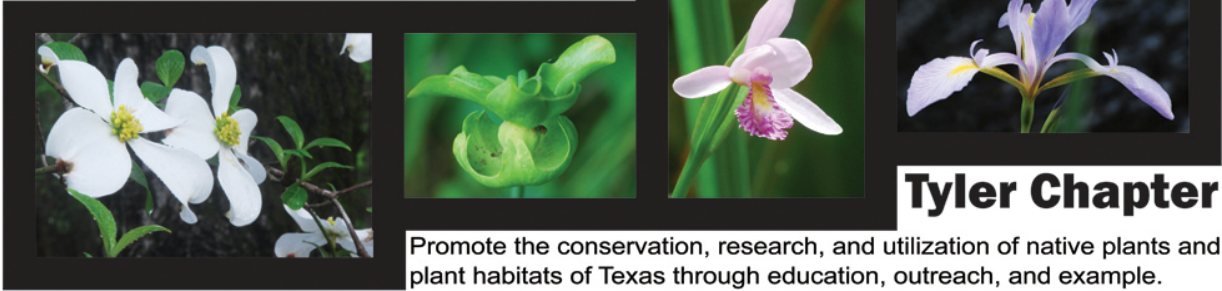


Native Plant Society of Texas



November 2009 Newsletter

Next Chapter Meeting

**Monday
November 2nd @ 7:00 PM
Fairwood United Methodist Church
1712 Old Omen Rd
Tyler, TX**

November Program

Pocket Prairies in Eastern Texas

Jason Singhurst, Botanist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will be discussing pocket prairies in eastern Texas. This includes historical maps and current survey efforts to identify the remaining remnant prairies. These unique tallgrass and mid grass prairies are separated from the contiguous Blackland Prairie and Coastal Prairie regions in Texas. They have been isolated for a long time and their soils have maintained natural openings in a landscape that is dominated by forests, woodlands, and savannas. Jason will discuss pimple mind prairies, saline prairies, Weches prairies and glades, Catahoula sandstone prairie and glades, and Fleming Prairies. All of these isolated prairies have unique flora which includes several rare and endemic plants.

Jason graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a M.S. in 1996 and joined Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1995. He has been employed as a Botanist for the past 14 years where he has contributed towards many new records for the flora of Texas. He described two new plant species to science,

both restricted to Texas. He is a co-author of the Rare Plants of Texas (A&M Press 2008) and has published over 40 scientific papers. Jason, his wife Liz and 2 year old daughter Ava live in Austin, Texas.

Herb Jarrell

President's Message

Fall is here, and winter is not too far behind—my paper-white narcissus have just come up. My Mexican Sage (*Salvia leucantha*) is still in bloom and is much visited by butterflies, mostly Gulf Fritillaries and Monarchs.

We just got back from the Annual Symposium in Wichita Falls, and Ron is now President of NPSOT. Those attending from our chapter were Ron and I, Clyde and Fran McKinney, Jim Showen and his brother-in-law Bryan, Elizabeth Parks, and, all the way from Alabama, Bonnie Pride. There were slightly less than 150 people attending, with interesting papers presented, and good buffalo-burgers one night and roast buffalo the next night. The Silent Auction netted about \$2300. The Young Co. (Graham TX) chapter raffled off a beautiful, heavy turquoise necklace, and Ron won that. I'll wear it to our meeting. We had an Indian couple talk to us about plants they used for healing, and offered a lovely Indian shawl in a raffle to raise money for heritage teaching, and Elizabeth Parks won that, though she gave it back. She is invited to dance in a Powwow with them and we'll have to join her. Some of you may know Belinda McLaughlin, who won the Benny Simpson Fellows Award, voted on by all NPSOT members.

The Symposium registration could not have gone nearly so smoothly as it did, except for the hours and hours that Fran and Clyde put in, helping Pam Middleton, our State Coordinator. Also helping when money was turned in at the Silent Auction were Elizabeth and Bonnie. Wichita Falls simply didn't have enough people to fill all the jobs, and Ron and I thank OUR people so very, very much.

Dr. Sherrod and Sonnia Hill manned the table at the Fall Gardening Conference since we were at the Symposium. Lynn reported that we made \$70 from offering our seed packets. Sonnia announced our Native Plant Conference there, and there were several people who asked about it.

Planning ahead, our December meeting is a Christmas potluck, held on Audubon's meeting night, Tuesday, Dec. 8, but at OUR meeting place. Enjoy the fall colors.

Ruth Loper

Field Trips

The next scheduled field trip for the club is on Monday, November 15th. We will be touring the Caroline Dorman Nature Preserve in Saline, Louisiana which is near Natchitoches, Louisiana. The preserve is called Briarwood, and many of our members have visited it in the past. We plan to drive over to Natchitoches on Sunday and do a little sight seeing and food sampling in this historic town. There is a Holiday Inn Express in Natchitoches as well as several bed and breakfasts. You can also choose to just drive over Monday morning. Our tour will be Monday morning and there is an admission charge. More formation will be announced at our next meeting on November 2nd. The preserve would like to have a head count so please call or email Fran McKinney if you plan to attend. (903-967-3998 or franclyde@peoplescom.net). Many good reports have been shared about this preserve and we look forward to a nice visit. Driving directions with a map will be sent to those who plan to join us.

Sonniah Hill & Fran McKinney

Other Events

Membership news

There are no new members at this time

Kathryn Greene