

Native Plant Society of Texas



Promote the conservation, research, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach, and example.

<http://www.npsot.org/Tyler/>

May 2010 Newsletter

Next Chapter Meeting

**Monday
May 3rd @ 7:00 PM
Fairwood United Methodist Church
1712 Old Omen Rd
Tyler, TX**

President's Message

Summer is fast approaching now. My two favorite summer-visitor birds have arrived—the beautiful Blue Indigo Bunting and the Summer Tanager with his intricate song. Flowers blooming now are Coreopsis (mostly *Coreopsis lanceolata*), Woolly-white (*Hymenopappus artemisiifolius*), Fleabane (*Erigeron sp.*) and Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja indivisa*). If you see a few all-yellow Indian Paintbrush mixed in, they are still all the exact same species. Our bluebonnets are probably past their prime. But did you notice that there are two kinds in this area? The Texas Bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*) has racemes with white tips, and the Sandyland Bluebonnet (*L. subcarnosus*) is all blue. It grows best in East Texas sandy soil. There are four other *Lupinus* species in Texas and all are considered the State Flower. There is a flower blooming now that is fast becoming an invasive—Smooth Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris glabra*). Twenty years ago it was just beginning to be seen. It has a rosette of leaves and several stems about a foot tall with small dandelion-like flowers. During our trillium hike, we found some more rare flowers on our land—Horse Gentian (*Trifolium angustifolium*). They are more common

in states east of here, but have been found in Texas only in counties along the Red River. They bloom 2-3 weeks after the trilliums.

We made \$54 at our tree and seed sale out at Camp Tyler on Earth Day, mainly because Audubon member Dr. Mike Bloodworth bought 16 red mulberry trees. We still have lots more, so Kay Jenkins will bring some to the meeting if you will email me about how many you want. Also, we will be selling at the Naturefest at the Mineola Nature Preserve on May 29, and would like some help up there. Be sure and come to Boo's to see all the natives that she will be showing off come Sunday. Directions will be sent in a few days.

Enjoy spring. See you at our May meeting.



Horse Gentian

Ruth Loper
President, Tyler Chapter, NPSOT

Field Trips

Our April Field Trip will be to the home of Chuck and Boo Eubanks. Their home is on the Smith County Master Gardener Tour this year because it features native plants. We

are going on Thursday, April 29th at 10:00 to help Boo identify some of her plants and to view her collection. The directions to her house are as follows: Take HWY 64 east of Loop 323 and pass the Chapel Hill High School. Go through the red light at the school and turn left at the first road on the left. It is the Old Henderson HWY, CR220. Go past the Volunteer Fire Dept and turn left on CR 290 which is Sundown Road. Turn on the third road on the right which will be Cherokee. CR2205. Do not count the roads on the right. Boo's house is the 7th house on the right on Cherokee. The house has yellow trim with a bright blue roof. Hope to see you all there for a fun walk through Boo's native plant gardens.

Sonniah Hill & Fran McKinney

Announcements

Kay Jenkins will bring some of our little native trees to the May meeting. We have Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*), Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*) and Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*). Please email me (ron.l.loper@gmail.com) or telephone (903-839-7695) about how many you would like .

Ruth Loper

**10th Annual
Henderson County Master Gardeners
Spring Conference**

6 PM

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

5550 FM 2495, Athens, Texas

Event features:

Plant Sale, Vendor Exhibits, Dinner, and Speaker
and Live Auction and Silent Auction

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Call 903-675-6130 for tickets

Steve Huddleston

Senior Horticulturist, Fort Worth Botanic Garden

will speak on "Attracting Birds and Butterflies to Your Garden"

May 1, 2010

Texas Conservation Alliance 2010 Alliance POW WOW Tyler State Park

May 1-2

Texas Woodland and Wildlife Expo at the Lone Star Convention and Expo Center in Conroe; for more information <http://expo.tamu.edu>.

June 2-5

Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference

Stephen F. Austin University

June 2-5

5th Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference in Nacogdoches. For detailed information visit:

<http://arboretum.sfasu.edu>.

Caddo Wildflower Chapter NPSOT: meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held in Atlanta at Horn Enterprises located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Texas Hwy. 77 and Texas Hwy. 43. (Just off U.S. 59 on the southwest side of Atlanta.) The old Texas National Guard armory sits diagonally across the same intersection on the southwest corner. The Atlanta ISD Junior High School is across the street.

Lake Country Chapter NPSOT: meets at 7:00 p.m. the first Tuesday at the Titus County AgriLife Extension building, 1708 Industrial Road (FM 1402), Mount Pleasant.

Four Corners Chapter NPSOT: meets at 7:00 p.m. the first Thursday at Williams Memorial United Methodist Church parlor, 4000 Moores Lane, Texarkana.

Northeast Texas Organic Gardeners: meets at 10:00 a.m. the 1st Wednesday at Wildwood Eco-Farm in Kilgore. For directions call Carole Ramke at 903-986-9475

Cypress Basin Chapter Texas Master Naturalist: meets at 6:30 p.m. the 3rd Tuesday most months. For information on location email the president, Ted Barrow, @ barrowted@hotmail.com