

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Symposium Registration Hours (at the Marriott):

Thursday, October 19, 2006 2:00 - 9:00 pm
Friday, October 20, 2006 7:00 am - 1:00 pm and 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Saturday, October 21, 2006 7:00 am - 3:30 pm

Thursday, October 19, 2006

4:00 - 7:00 pm

Cibolo Nature Center, Boerne

4:00 - Come early and wander the nature trails through the four ecosystems of the 100-acre Cibolo Nature Center by yourself or with guide-led groups.

5:00 - Hors d'oeuvres and beverages served

6:00 - Welcome and Presentation: Hill Country Native Plant Conservation: Challenges and Solutions to a Relentless Problem. Presenters:

Rufus Stephens, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Jan Wrede, Education Director, Cibolo Nature Center

Thursday dinner on your own

Directions to Cibolo Nature Center

From the Northwest on I-10: Take State Hwy 46 Exit (#540) and turn left onto Hwy 46 East.

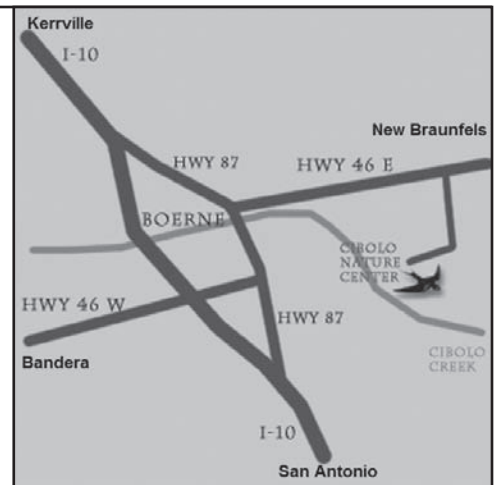
From the Southeast on I-10: Take State Hwy 46 Exit (#540) and turn right onto Hwy 46 East.

From the West on State Hwy 46: Remain on Hwy 46 East as you cross over I-10.

From all three directions listed above, take Hwy 46 East to its intersection with Main Street (at this point Hwy 46 East merges with US 87 Business and Main Street). Turn left onto Main Street and proceed toward downtown Boerne.

As you descend the hill into Boerne's Historic District (where Main Street is called the Hauptstrasse) and approach the bridge over Cibolo Creek, take the angled lane to the right that crosses the creek. Turn right onto River Road (State Highway 46 East), which parallels Cibolo Creek.

Continue on Highway 46 East for about one mile and turn right onto City Park Rd. (If you reach the Kendall County Fairgrounds you have gone too far.) Take City Park Rd. almost to the end and turn right into the Cibolo Nature Center.



From the East on State Hwy 46: A few miles before you get to Boerne, look for the Kendall County Fairgrounds on your left. Just past the fairgrounds, turn left onto City Park Road. Take this road almost to the end and turn right into the Cibolo Nature Center.

Friday, October 20, 2006

8:00 am

Silent Auction opens

8:15 - 8:30 am

Welcome and Announcements (Marriott Sam Houston Ballroom)

8:30 - 11:45 am

PRESENTATIONS

8:30 - 9:00 am

Geologic History of South Central Texas Reflected in Merging Plant Zones, Dr. Bill Ward

See how geologic history led to the present patterns of soil types and plant assemblages.

9:00 - 9:30 am

An Overview of the Flora of South Central Texas, Jason Singhurst

Bexar County and the greater San Antonio area is an interesting crossroads in Texas with a wide diversity of geomorphology and land forms. The presentation will include examples of the Carrizo Sand, Balcones Canyonlands, and South Texas endemics, rare plants and plant communities, along with a remnant example or two from the Blackland Prairie.

- 9:30 – 10:00 am **Revelations from the past; Consequences for the future, Mark Peterson**
Friday continued Fossilized pollen and midden studies indicate wide fluctuations in plant communities in Texas during the past 30,000 years. Recent models have also demonstrated an expanding Chihuahuan desert biome. What do these studies portend for the future for South Central Texas ecosystems?
- 10:00 -10:30 am **Break**
- 10:30 -11:00 am **Hummingbirds and Native Plants: Mutual Benefits and Adaptations, Mark Klym**
Many of our native plants have adapted specifically to accommodate the feeding habits of many of our native hummingbirds. Deep-throated petal structures, floral orientation at or slightly below 90 degrees from the stem, and other features almost ensure that these plants will be fertilized by hummingbirds. These adaptations and the mutual dependence of hummingbirds and native plants will be discussed in this program.
- 11:00 -11:45 am **Soil Meso Fauna: Meet Some of the Plant Root Neighborhood, Dr. Patricia Richardson**
Healthy soil is an astonishing living diversity of organisms, from micro (bacteria) to mega (earthworms and dung beetles). The mid-sized (meso) critters are beautiful and astonishing. From our perspective they cycle nutrients. From their perspective, they are just making a living, but they help provide your plants with a healthy lifestyle. See them in action. (video)
- 11:45 – 1:00 **Friday lunch on your own**
- 1:00 – 5:00 pm **WORKSHOPS AND FIELD TRIPS**

WORKSHOPS

#1 - Cooking with Natives, Steven Coussoulis

Coussoulis will demonstrate how to use certain native plants in everyday meals and will provide several recipes on how to prepare the meals. He will also demonstrate preparation of sauces using native plants, including barbeque sauce. (at the Marriott)

#2 - Drawing in the Field: Notes in Pencil and Watercolor, Maren Phillips

[Limit 40] \$5 entry fee payable at entrance

Spend time in a native plant garden drawing and painting your observations and journaling about the artwork. Learn a few quick techniques and methods for drawing and painting. Bring a hardbound blank heavy paper journal, 2b or other soft pencils, kneaded eraser, and a small pan watercolor set with at least 2 sizes of good round watercolor brushes. (San Antonio Botanical Garden)

GENERAL FIELD TRIPS

#3 - Ethnobotany and Native Plant Identification, Janis Merritt [Limit 15] (Easy walk)

Learn about native plants used for food, medicine, tools, etc. Enjoy an easy one-mile hike in a natural area park and learn hill country native plants. (Crownridge Canyon Natural Area)

#4 - South Texas Native Plants and the Wildlife They Support at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, Iliana Peña [No Limit] (Easy walk) \$5 entry fee payable at entrance

Explore the diversity and uniqueness of South Texas native plants. The discussion will include local cultural and historical uses of native plants as well as how the Center's land management and revegetation efforts are benefiting local and migratory birds and other wildlife.

#5 - Texas Native Trail Tour at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, Paul Cox

[Limit 30] (Easy to medium walk) \$5 entry fee payable at entrance

Native trails depict the Texas Hill Country, South Texas, and East Texas piney woods areas.

BALCONES ESCARPMENT FIELD TRIPS

#6 - Where in the World are the Native Plants: Using Global Positioning System (GPS) Technology in the Natural World, Dianne Hart and JayNe Neal [Limit 10] (Medium walk)

Finding native plants in natural settings is exciting and finding your way back to those plants is even more exciting. GPS is one of the tools now available to help people keep track of plant locations. Participants will learn the basics of GPS, including how to mark locations, create tracks (virtual breadcrumb trails), and do go-to's (for example, to return to desired plants). No previous experience with GPS is required and all equipment will be provided for use during the workshop. (Friedrich Wilderness Park's Woodland Hills North)

1:00 – 5:00 pm
Friday continued

#7 - Honey Creek Hike: An Exploratory Walk From Savannah to Riparian, Wilt Shaw and J. W. Pieper [Limit 20] (Easy to medium walk)

\$6 entry fee payable at entrance

Honey Creek is a 2300-acre protected State Natural Area located at Guadalupe River State Park where pre-European-influence plant diversity is making a comeback. Making frequent stops, participants will traverse from savannah through transition zone to riparian to examine plant diversity, discuss area history and geology.

#8 - A Hill Country Sampler: Friedrich Wilderness Park, Lottie Millsaps [Limit 18] (Easy to medium walk)

Part 1: An easy ramble along a paved path through an oak-juniper forested area. An intermittent creek is crossed and offers a fine example of “balcones” geology. Part 2: A stroll in a “mini-arboretum” which is an ongoing project of the San Antonio Chapter of NPSOT and the Alamo Area Master Naturalists. It offers examples of preservation and conservation of native vegetation.

BLACKLAND PRAIRIE, SOUTH TEXAS BRUSH, EDWARDS PLATEAU, POST-OAK SAVANNAH FIELD TRIP

#9 - Intersection of Ecological Zones at Warbler Woods, Don Schaezler [Limit 20] (Easy to medium walk)

Warbler Woods is the 126-acre home and property of Don and Susan Schaezler. The tour will show the location of Warbler Woods with respect to four ecological zones that are within a few miles. It will discuss many of the 260+ plants that have been identified on the property or nearby and how the plants and habitats interact with animal populations. Property uses a gray water system that recycles water to some of the planting areas. Repeated on Sunday.

RIPARIAN FIELD TRIPS

#10 - A Bioengineering/Bank Stabilization Project Using Texas Natives, Debbie Reid [Limit 20] (Easy to medium walk)

Participants will have a presentation at the Marriott and then do a site visit to see bioengineering to stabilize a bank on Salado Creek using geogrid, vegetative matting, boulders and native trees, shrubs and grasses. Several bioengineering techniques were used and will be discussed, including use of live willow poles, willow and dogwood bundles and lunkers for fish habitat.

#11 - Marvelous Riparian Medina River Natural Area, Dianne Simpson and Gale Dugleby [Limit 15] (Easy walk)

If you think you have seen it all, we are here to show you there is not a lick of riparian habitat the likes of the MRNA: fragile box elder, frightening stands of willowy ragweed, delicate peppervine, hearty gum bumelia, lime green inland sea oats, cypress, dogwood, grapevine, and willow. These are a few of the wonders you will see. Poison Ivy is rampant at MRNA. You will see it in all its amazing forms, even a “tree”!

#12 - A Plant Walk Around the San Antonio Missions, Bill Carr [Limit 20] (Easy walk)

No undisturbed natural vegetation remains in the vicinity of the San Antonio Missions, but the area is home to hundreds of native and naturalized plant species that have flourished as a result of 300 years of human settlement and disturbance. This plant walk will be an introduction to the weedy urban flora of San Antonio and South Texas.

COASTAL PLAIN/EDWARDS PLATEAU CONVERGENCE FIELD TRIP

#13 - It's All About the Water, Catherine McKee [Limit 10] (Medium walk)

Explore Government Canyon State Natural Area, which preserves more than 8600 acres of mostly karst topography over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and has historically been largely undisturbed except for ranching uses.

Friday dinner on your own

Saturday, October 21, 2006

- 8:15 - 8:30 am **Welcome and Announcements (Marriott Sam Houston Ballroom)**
- 8:30 - 11:30 am **PRESENTATIONS**
- 8:30 - 9:00 am **Solving Problems with Native Plants, Dr. Mark Simmons**
The Landscape Restoration Program at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center tests and implements techniques which use native plants and processes to solve ecological engineering, restoration, and conservation problems. The projects overviewed in this talk include: using native seed and fire to control invasive species, roadside revegetation with natives, riparian restoration on the San Antonio River, and the advantages of native plants on vegetated roofs.
- 9:00 - 9:30 am **Diversity, Invasive Species, and the Construction of Invasion Resistant Communities, Dr. Kelly Lyons**
Experimental studies suggest that more diverse communities are more resistant to new species introductions, in particular non-indigenous species invasions. This talk will discuss the process of applying the findings of these experimental studies to the restoration of invasion resistant communities.
- 9:30 -10:00 am **Annual Membership Meeting - Led by Outgoing President Bill Lindemann**
Election of State Officers, Annual Financial Report. All NPSOT members are encouraged to participate.
- 10:00 - 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:30 -11:00 am **Butterflies and Native Plants of South Central Texas, Bill Lindemann**
Each butterfly species over time has developed a dependence on specific native plant families for larval food sources and for survival. This presentation will examine both butterfly biology, in the larval and adult stages, as it relates to native plants and the linkages of butterflies and plant families. Suggestions will also be given for butterfly gardening in South Central Texas.
- 11:00 -11:30 am **¿Quien es Mas Macho? Paul Cox**
Native plants have found a place in the landscaping industry. Not only are they hardy in regards to drought, floods, and cold, but their rugged beauty puts them in a class by themselves.
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm **Saturday lunch on your own**
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm **PRESENTATIONS**
- 1:00 - 1:30 pm **Running Dry: Water and the Development of San Antonio, Dr. Char Miller**
Using historic maps and other illustrative material, Miller will explore how different generations have managed water to sustain their presence here and will debate the central contemporary tensions arising over the distribution and use of water in South Texas.
- 1:30 - 2:00 pm **Keeping Above Water/Preserving the Edwards Aquifer, Eric Lautzenheiser**
San Antonio is preserving the Edwards Aquifer through purchasing land in the recharge zone. This land, the Balcones Escarpment, is the area in Texas with the highest number of endemic plants and several endangered species. Lautzenheiser will discuss how this program is being implemented and what the future might hold for these properties.
- 2:00 - 2:30 pm **Break**
- 2:00 - 2:30 pm **Chapter Leaders' Meeting - Led by VP Chapter Liaison Helena van Heiningen**
- 2:30 - 4:30 pm **WORKSHOPS (at the Marriott)**
- 2:30 - 4:00 pm **#14 - Creating a Vibrant Chapter**
Explore the elements that create an active, growing chapter. Share techniques and tools you have found to be effective. Panelists' presentations will be followed by lots of time for discussion and audience contributions. Presenters: Cynthia Maguire, Trinity Forks Chapter President; Helena van Heiningen, NPSOT VP Chapter Liaison and North Central Texas Chapter member; Sue Wiseman, former NPSOT President and Williamson County Chapter member; and Melissa Miller, incoming NPSOT President and San Antonio Chapter President.
- 2:30 - 3:30 pm **#15 - Really Connecting People and Native Plants, Peggy Spring**
In environmental education, it is easy to generate interest in bugs and snakes but how do teachers get people excited about plants? Come explore strategies and opportunities for making transformative connections between people and native plants. Ethnobotany, including oral histories and natural history, is explored in this session. Handouts, demonstrations and displays, hands-on activities (mesquite cookies and agave twine).

- 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Saturday continued
- #16 - Seeking a Sense of Place, Penelope Speier**
Embracing their natural affinity for the natural world, participants will be invited on an artistic imaginary journey to the San Antonio River. The Moving Waters workbook will be used to help participants identify the native flora that grows along Texas rivers. Art materials will be provided for creative expression using the Visual Thinking Strategies method. Participants will use clay, pencils and paint to learn to see our natives in a fresh manner.
- 3:30 - 4:30 pm
- #17 - Sabal Mexicana Palm Trees, Native to San Antonio and Beyond?**
Dr. Landon Lockett
For many decades botanists believed that *Sabal mexicana* (syn. *Sabal texana*) was native no farther north than the Lower Rio Grande Valley. In 1989, however, a wild population was discovered east of Victoria. Before the species was virtually wiped out, its range may have extended much farther north and northwest than even San Antonio. This palm can be planted and will thrive and reproduce hundreds of miles north of the Valley. Learn more about the palm.
- 5:00 pm
- End of Bidding for Silent Auction**
- 5:00 - 5:30 pm
- NPSOT Board Meeting - Led by Incoming President Melissa Miller**
Open to all NPSOT members.
- 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- Pick Up Silent Auction Items**
- 7:30 - 9:30 pm
- Saturday Night Awards Banquet (Marriott Sam Houston Ballroom)**
Italian buffet with three entrées - one will be vegetarian; cash wine bar.

Sunday, October 22, 2006

- 8:30 - 10:00 am
- #18 - Huebner-Onion Homestead Natural Area, Richard Heilbrun and Mike McDonald**
[Limit 20] (Easy walk)
The Leon Valley Historical Society is the caretaker of a 36-acre natural area in an incorporated town within San Antonio. The area holds a unique role in the conservation of urban systems and protection of native plants. Participants will tour the property and identify plants native to the Hill Country. Program material will focus on geology and wildlife management of the property, nature center development, and creating relevance for an urban audience.
- 9:00 - 11:30 am
- #19 - Castroville Regional Park: South Texas Brushlands Meet the Hill Country, Patty Leslie Pasztor [No Limit] (Easy to medium walk)**
This 126-acre park owned by the City of Castroville has a great diversity of flora and fauna. The park includes a section of the Medina River with Spanish moss-laden bald cypress trees adjacent to a hillside trail with Tamaulipan brush species such as cenizo, guajillo, guayacan, and others. Participants will look at plants and some butterflies, and enjoy a view of the Medina Valley from the hilltop.
- 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- #20 - Intersection of Ecological Zones at Warbler Woods, Don Schaezler**
[Limit 20] (Easy to medium walk)
Repeat of #9 from Friday.

Due to the limited capacity of field trips on Sunday, a brochure of self-guided field trips will be available.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Native Plant Society of Texas
PO Box 3017
Fredericksburg, TX 78624-1929

Phone 830-997-9272 E-mail symposium@npsot.org
Fax 866-527-4918 Website www.npsot.org