

## ***Field Trips & Workshops***

**Note:** Some trips require entry fees that are not included in your registration fee. If indicated in the trip description, they are to be paid on arrival to the site.

### **Sunday, on your way home: Group D**

#### **D-1: Dogwood Canyon**

Be one of the first to see this spectacular site, home of a remnant stand of 50' flowering east Texas dogwoods. Most of the property has never been developed. The area we'll hike has almost no invasive species and a spectacular plant community including large stands of American beautyberry, shin oaks, loads of possumhaw and Eve's necklace, native orchids and ferns. Great habitat for the endangered black-cap vireo. This is a rigorous hike over steep terrain with very few improvements to the property. **No facilities.**

**Leaders: Dana Wilson, Dr. Patty McGill, Randy Schoen**

**Cedar Hill escarpment SW of Dallas / Duncanville — 45 mi**

**Limit: 30 participants.**

**Difficulty Rating: hard.**

#### **D-2: Clymer Meadow**

Clymer Meadow contains the largest protected remnant of the Texas Blackland Prairie. Two globally rare prairie types are protected there. Unusual soil formations—gilgai—create basins supporting unusual, wet prairie communities. The fall aspect of the tallgrass prairie is a great time to see the tallgrasses in flower, along with fall wildflowers. Join Jim and Larry Crane for a walking tour. Long pants, sunhats, and sturdy walking shoes/boots are recommended. Bring water, since early October can still be quite warm. **Restroom.**

**Leaders: Jim Eidson, Range Ecologist and Larry Crane, Master Naturalist**

**45 mi/1 hr**

**Limit: 30 participants.**

**Difficulty Rating: easy – moderate.**

#### **D-3: Bear Creek Ranch**

Although spring and early summer are the seasons when the plant life of North Central Texas is most conspicuous, fall is also a great time to enjoy the native flora. This visit to a 2100-acre ranch will include a look at the Grand Prairie matrix and some wanderings off into woodlands and stream bottoms. All plant species—grasses, sedges, forbs, woodies and aquatics—will be fair game in this effort to see and enjoy whatever's out there. Wear sturdy shoes or boots for what should be a moderately strenuous walk, and be aware that it might be necessary to wade across water a few inches deep. Bring your water and lunch, and we'll eat at an old airplane hangar on a hilltop with a great view of the surrounding prairie pastures.

**Leader: Bill Carr, botanist, The Nature Conservancy of Texas**

**Aledo — 55 mi/1 hr**

***similar trip (A-2) on Thursday; with different leaders and emphasis.***

**Limit: 20 participants.**

**Difficulty Rating: moderately strenuous.**

#### **D-4: Dye Mound Preserve**

A 140 acre mesa and prairie with various soil types restored since 1992. There are 450 species and no introduced species. Hiking on trails. No roads. **No facilities.**

**Leaders: Hugh Garnett, owner, assisted by Shirley Lusk**

**50 mi NW of Denton — 1 hr/15 min**

***a repeat from Friday (B-6)***

**Limit: 30 participants.**

**Difficulty Rating: easy – moderate.**

#### **D-5: Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge & Sneed Prairie**

The refuge lies along the south side of Lake Texhoma. Its primary function is to provide wintering grounds for geese and ducks. Five species of geese can be found there – Canada, Snow, White-fronted, Ross', and Cackling. There are also prairie areas that are being restored. Members of the Friends of Hagerman will talk about the bird and prairie conservation efforts as we see birds and plants. Just east of the refuge is a prairie remnant called Sneed Prairie where faculty and students from Austin College in Sherman have been conducting research for several years. One of the faculty or research associates will explain the research as we tour the prairie.

**Leader: Mike Mizell**

**Pottsboro — 50 mi/1 hr**

**Limit: 25 Participants.**

**Difficulty Rating: easy.**

#### **D-6: Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary**

There are 289 acres of natural habitat that has been under restoration management since the late 60's, but with limited resources. The Sanctuary is comprised of mostly riparian woodlands, but also has several small prairies surrounding a couple of limestone escarpments and about 60 acres of man-made ephemeral wetlands. Several miles of very nicely maintained easy trails and boardwalks traverse these habitats. A butterfly garden should be at its peak during this trip, for a great follow-up to Roger Sanderson's paper. **Restrooms. Special reduced entry fee — \$5 instead of usual \$9.**

**Leader: Roger Sanderson (paper on Saturday; field trip on Sunday)**

**McKinney — 40 mi/1 hr**

**Limit: 40 participants.**

**Difficulty Rating: easy.**

#### **D-7: LBJ National Grasslands**

Repeat from Friday but with different emphasis. Again see restoration and conservation efforts through fire, grazing and erosion control. But more time spent on plants, birds, butterflies, dragonflies, etc. with rougher terrain covered. In addition to areas seen on Friday this trip will take a hike down into a wooded canyon harboring special plant species found in more riparian habitat. Sturdy shoes or hiking boots and long pants required. Binoculars suggested. Bring water and snacks to sustain you on the hike and stay a little longer. **No facilities.**

**Leaders: Mary Curry & Kathy Saucier**

**Decatur — 30 mi/40 min**

**Limit: 20 participants.**

**Difficulty Rating: hard.**

### **D-8: Leo Ranch**

The Leo Ranch is a prime example of sustainable ranching in North Texas. Owned by the Dixon Water Foundation, it has been permanently preserved under a conservation easement. Both cattle and sheep are grazed on the 963-acre property in a rotational grazing system, allowing for the sustenance of quality tallgrass prairie. The property itself has notable examples of upland native prairie, wooded limestone escarpments, mesic meadows covered with eastern gamagrass, and a riparian corridor along a sandy creek. The tour will allow time to visit these habitats and view other wildflower meadow sites in the vicinity. Easy walking along dirt roadways on the pastures. **Picnic facilities. Outhouse.**

**Leader: R. J. Taylor, Connemara Conservancy Foundation or Dixon staff**

**Leo; NW of Denton — 35 mi/45–55 min**

**Repeat from Friday B-9**

**Limit: 35 participants.**

**Difficulty Rating: easy.**

### **D-9: Montalcino Estates & Chimney Rock Estates**

Located in western Flower Mound are two examples of Conservation Developments, or Conservation Subdivisions. The field trip will allow the attendees to see a proposed development site and a nearby completed subdivision with conservation easement parcels. Both sites have been designed to allow for the permanent preservation of post oak forests and the protection of riparian corridors along streams. Optional stop at The Flower Mound at conclusion. Easy walking along gravel roadways on the undeveloped subdivision. **No facilities.**

**Note:** Highly recommended as a follow-up to Jared Martin's design workshop on Saturday.

**Leader: Jared Martin**

**Flower Mound— 18 mi/30 min**

**Limit: 30 participants.**

**Difficulty Rating: easy.**

### **D-10: Residential rain gardens**

A tour of 4–5 existing rain gardens emphasizing how to maintain a rain garden sustainability. **No facilities.**

**Leader: Carrie Dubberley**

**Collin County, Allen & McKinney area — 45 mi**

**Limit: 40 participants.**

**Difficult Rating: easy.**

### **D-11: Woodson Place**

Woodson Place is a conservation subdivision midway between Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni in the peaceful countryside of Rains County. Conservation subdivision is a method for preserving natural features of the land when building. While the standard way of land development divides the parcel into as many equal lots as possible, conservation subdivisions build around the trees, waterways, and open space corridors. Homes open to wonderful landscapes shared by a whole community. This development received a prestigious Texas Parks & Wildlife Land Steward award. Tours of the model home with its five—star rating from the Austin Energy Green Building Program will be led by project manager and sustainability consultant, Chris Allen. Guided walks through

the subdivision's open space will include both prairie and wooded areas within this Post Oak Savannah ecological region. Prairie grasses and wildflowers are thriving in the wake of the controlled prairie burn last winter.

**Leaders: Carol Feldman, Landscape Architect & Chris Allen, Project Manager**

Mineola — 95 mi

*repeat from Thursday (A-1)*

Limit: 30 participants.

Difficulty rating: easy.

### **D-12: Fossil Hill**

This is a privately owned old-growth Cross Timbers woodland on a steep rocky headland overlooking Amon Carter Lake in SW Montague County. The 130 acre property is mostly undisturbed old-growth, dominated by post oak and blackjack oak. The site serves as a Research Natural Area for the Ancient Cross Timbers Consortium based out of the University of Arkansas. Topography includes flat ridgetops, gentle to steep slopes, draws and riparian areas, each of which exhibit distinct flora. A wide variety of native grasses occur in the wooded areas as well as numerous open areas; small cliffs and canyons formed by ages old splits in the rocks support ferns nestled among moss, lichens and liverworts. Numerous fossils are to be found on some of the exposed slopes. Hosts Wayne and Jeanne Erickson will lead the trips, assisted on Sunday by Master Naturalist Jeff Quayle who has done extensive plant surveys on the property. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes; long pants recommended. **No facilities.**

**Leaders: Jeanne & Wayne Erickson, owners**

Montague County — 65 mi/1hr 20 min

*repeat from Friday (B-15)*

Limit: 20 participants.

Difficulty Rating: moderate.

### **D-13: Frito Lay Woodlands Trail**

The Woodlands Trail at Frito Lay is a botanically diverse walking, running, biking trail through a native woodland area adjacent to a prairie meadow and lake on the Frito Lay corporate headquarters campus. The trail borders the largest lake (8 acres) in Collin County. Wildlife inhabitants include raccoons, armadillos, bobcats, snakes, spiders, squirrels, and birds. A trail map is available at the trailhead entrance. The Frito Lay campus landscape has been maintained organically since 1991 and has won several environmental awards. **Facilities.**

**WARNING:** Due to the favorable rainfall conditions, there is lots of poison ivy along the trail.

**Note:** A great follow-up to Steve Trotter's soil and agronomy presentation.

**Leaders: Steve Trotter, Frito Lay landscape consultant; Alan Lusk; and Tom Kirwan**

Plano — 35 mi/45-55 min

Limit: 40 participants.

Difficulty Rating: easy.