The local Caddo Wildflower chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas has received the organization’s highest honor for a chapter. At the society’s recent annual state symposium, outgoing president Carol Feldman bestowed the Kate Hillhouse Chapter of the Year Award on the Caddo Wildflower chapter. On hand to accept the award were chapter members Belinda McCoy McLaughlin and Margie McCoy, both of Dangerville. “The president said she was impressed that, even though we’re only a few months old, our chapter already has 58 memberships, which includes numerous family memberships and actually encompasses 73 people,” McLaughlin said. “She also cited the fact that our chapter is already active with field trips, workshops and various outreaches at local events.” The Chapter of the Year is given the honor of displaying a commemorative NPSOT quilt, designed and quilted in 1993 by self-taught botanist and past NPSOT state president Kate Hillhouse and her daughters. NPSOT renamed the award this year in memorial to the recently deceased Hillhouse.

Mr. Robert Grant, from Morris County will be our guest speaker for this month’s meeting on Nov 18th at 7 p.m. His presentation will be an introduction to the science of identification and classification of plants. Please see page 3, first column for a reminder prior to the meeting.

Chapter Members Enjoy 2008 NPSOT Symposium “In The Big Thicket”

Despite some adjustments to the symposium location and housing arrangements, “compliments” of Hurricane Ike chapter members enjoyed the proceedings October 16-19. They were provided with an introduction to the vastly different habitats of the Big Thicket Preserve which includes some 1300 species of flowering plants, 26 species of ferns and allies, 20 species of orchids and four species of carnivorous plants. Field trips were also provided. See page 3 for some pictures.
Native Plant Sale - Saturday, Nov 8th, 10:00-12:00 AM

The Caddo Wildflower Chapter “Member’s Only” native plant sale will take place at the Union Chapel School. Drive five miles west of Douglassville on Hwy 77 then turn right on FM 2065. The school is 1.5 miles from the turn. Have your plants at the school by 9:00 AM labeled with name and annual, perennial or seeds. Price categories will be $1.00, $2.00 and $3.00. Arrive early to make your selections! Some of the plants that will be available are shown below with growing information to aid in your shopping (All Photos from LBJWC).

Coral Honeysuckle (Water: medium, Light: sun, part shade, Soil: all soil types)

Butterfly Weed (Water: low, Light: sun, part shade, Soil: sandy, well drained)

Blue Mistflower (Water: medium, Light: sun, part shade, Soil: moist loam, sand or clay)

Rock Rose (Water: low, Light: sun, part shade, Soil: well drained limestone soil)

Crossvine (Water: low, Light: sun, part shade, Soil: well drained, all soils)

Virginia Sweetspire (Water: High, Light: part shade, Soil: acid, any soils)

Carolina Jessamine (Water: medium, Light: sun, part shade, Soil: well drained humus)

Redbud (Water: low, Light: shade, part shade, Soil: fertile, well drained)

Passionflower Vine (Water: low, Light: sun, part shade, Soil: all soils)

Autumn Sage (Water: low, Light: sun, Soil: dry, all soils)

Flame Acanthus (Water: medium, Light: sun, part shade, Soil: well drained, all soils)

Turk’s Cap (Water: medium, Light: sun, part shade, Soil: prefers sandy, light soils)

Lanceleaf Coreopsis (Water: medium, Light: sun, part shade, shade, Soil: all soils)

Yellow Columbine (Water: medium, Light: part shade, Soil: rich, slightly acid)

Yarrow (Water: medium, Light: sun, part shade, Soil: all soils)

Purple Coneflower (Water: medium, Light: sun, part shade, soil: sandy or rich soil)
Invite your friends and neighbors to the Next Meeting of the Caddo Wildflower Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas

Meeting Reminders

We will not be taking our speaker, Robert Grant to dinner prior to this month’s meeting due to his schedule.

Plan to join us for dinner at El Inca in Linden prior to a future meeting and get acquainted with our guest speaker.

LOCAL NATIVE PLANT VENDORS
(and chapter members)

Viv’s Rust & Dust
(Viv Burns)
1410 Hwy 59 [corner of Hwy 59 and 155]
Linden, TX
903-756-8766

The Potting Shed
(Ginger Adcock and Amy Hill)
9318 Hwy 59 North
Atlanta, TX
903-799-8912

Plant of the Month Review --

Anisacanthus quadrifidus Flame acanthus, Hummingbird bush
Acanthaceae (Acanthus Family)
USDA Symbol: AQQUW
USDA Native Status: Native to U.S.
Flame acanthus is a spreading, 3 ft. deciduous shrub with exfoliating bark; red-orange, tubular flowers; and light-green, lanceolate leaves. This drought- and cold-tolerant shrub will adapt to a variety of soils and does well in patio pots. It blooms better in full sun but will tolerate light shade. Cutting the plant back severely in winter will provide more blooms and encourage a bushier form. Attractive bark provides winter interest. Medium water use; sun or part shade, moist soil.

Use Ornamental: Perennial garden, Blooms ornamental, Showy, Planned landscape, Understory
Use Wildlife: Long-lasting flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies.
Conspicuous Flowers: yes
Attracts: Hummingbirds, Butterflies
Larval Host: Janais Patch, Texan Crescentspot
Nectar Source: yes
Deer Resistant: High

The easiest method of propagation is to take cuttings from the current season’s growth. Cut a 4 – 6 inch branch just below a node. Remove lower leaves and root in flats or small pots.

2008 Symposium Happenings

Saturday Night Banquet (Photo: MMcCoy)
Ready for Sundew Trail Hike (Photo: MMcCoy)
Margie’s Car Full of Plants (Photo: MMcCoy)
Turks Cap at Doremus Nursery (Photo: MMcCoy)

Watch for more photos in next month's newsletter
About the Native Plant Society of Texas

NPSOT is a grassroots, non-profit organization officially formed in 1981 to promote native Texas plants. We are made up almost entirely of volunteers from all walks of life, but with a shared interest in learning more about our native plants. Texas has more than 5,000 species of native plants and, due to its geographical location as well as size, is one of the most biologically diverse states in the U.S., with forests, desert, mountains, hill, prairies and costal plains.

(NPSOT Rev. 2008.04.29)

Web Source Links

Texas native shrubs - http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/index.html
Texas native trees - http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/natives/tamuhort.html
LBJWC native plant info network - http://www.wildflower.org/explore
Texas parks and wildlife plant information database - http://tpid.tpwd.state.tx.us/
Texas invasive plants - http://www.texasinvasive.org/
Native plants of Texas search engine - http://www.npot.org/
Wildflowers in bloom - http://aggie.horticulture.tamu.edu/wildseed

This list was compiled from several of the NPSOT chapter pages as well as further links from some of the identified web sites. I'll continue to add more sites as I spend time “surfing” different links.