

## 2025 Spring Symposium



The NPSOT 2025 Spring Symposium will be held at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center March 8th, 2025!  
(Photo credit: LBJ Wildflower Center by Claire Sorenson)

**In-Person Registration is full but the Virtual Event Registration is still open: see below.**

#### Event Overview

Saturday, March 8, 2025

at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Symposium 8:45 am – 3:00 pm | Tours from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm (pre-registration required)

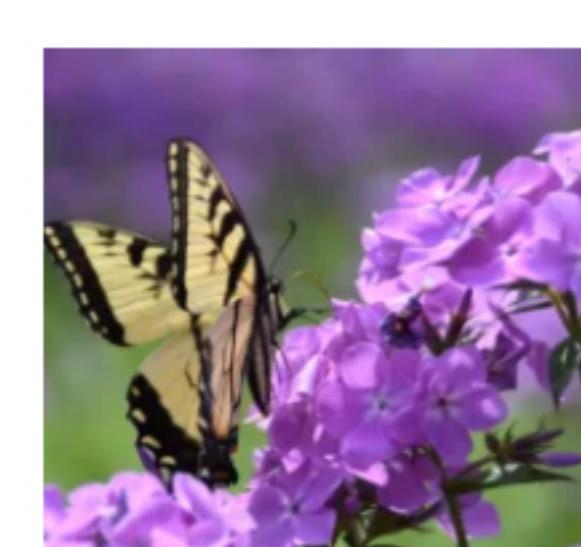
Hybrid Event: Recordings available to both in-person and virtual attendees approximately two weeks after the event.

Light breakfast, lunch, and access to Wildflower Center Gardens are included with in-person registration!

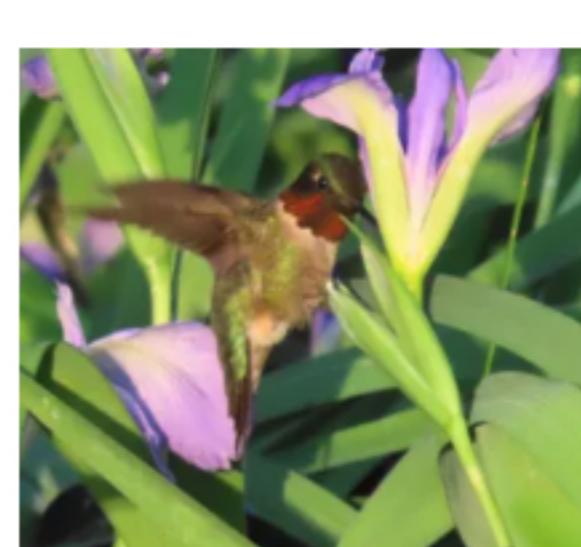
#### Agenda

View the Agenda [here!](#)

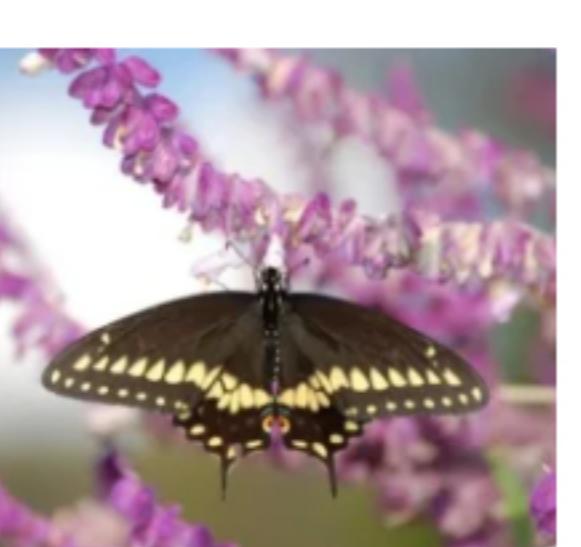
#### 2025 Spring Symposium Details



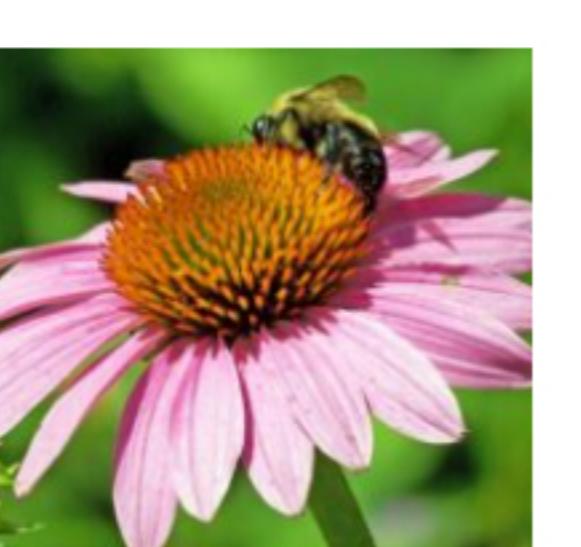
In-Person Registration



Virtual Registration



Speakers



Program Information

Registration is full for the in-person event. Consider registering for the [Virtual Event](#)!

Register [here](#) to stream the event live and receive event recordings to watch later.

View speaker information [here](#). View program information [here](#).

#### Get in Touch

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[Contact a local Chapter](#)

State Office Phone: 830.997.9272

State Office Address:  
Native Plant Society of Texas  
PO Box 3017  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

#### Become a Member

Become an important part of a statewide community with over 5,000 members, who are united in our mission to promote Texas native plants!

[Join Us!](#)



#### Stay Informed

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# *Native Plant Society of Texas*

## SPRING SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

Saturday, March 8, 2025

at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
Symposium 8:45 am – 3:00 pm, Tours from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Celebrate

8:00 am	<b>Check in and Light Breakfast begins</b>
8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>
9:00 am – 9:55 am	<b>A Natural History of Empty Lots</b> Christopher Brown – Author
9:55 am – 10:50 am	<b>Birding the Unexpected Places</b> Jennifer Bristol – Author, Birder
10:50 am – 11:10 am	<b>Break</b>
11:10 am – 12:05 pm	<b>Constellation of Living Memorials</b> Julie Fineman, Corrin Breeding, Matthew Orwatt, and Monica Newberry – Native Plant Society of Texas
12:05 pm – 12:20 pm	<b>Introducing the New Native Plant Primer – 225 Plants for an Earth-Friendly Garden</b> Andrea DeLong Amaya – Wildflower Center
12:20 pm – 1:20 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:20 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Chapter of the Year Announcement</b> presentation of the Kate Hillhouse Quilt
1:30 pm – 1:55 pm	<b>Student Research Studies: Quantifying Carbon Dynamics of Adaptive Multi-Paddock Grazing Across Spatial and Temporal Scales in Northern Texas</b> Chali Simpson – Texas A&M University
1:55 pm – 2:50 pm	<b>Pollinators of Texas</b> Wizzie Brown – Texas A&M University Dept. of Entomology
2:50 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>
3:00 pm	<b>Wildflower Center Guided Tour</b> (Preregistration Required)

Nature with Native Plants!

The Native Plant Society of Texas [www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org)  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)

## 2025 Spring Symposium Program Information

### "Springtime in the Texas Edgelands" presented by Christopher Brown

A presentation based on the author's 2024 literary nonfiction book about urban nature, rewilding, and biodiversity.

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### "Birding the Unexpected Places" presented by Jennifer Bristol

Cemeteries were the first parks in the United States. Since that time, they have gone through a myriad of changes- some good, some not so good- to become the space we know today. While researching cemeteries in Texas for my book, Cemetery Birding: An Unexpected Guide to Discovering Birds in Texas, I was careful to select locations that had the perfect nexus of habitat and history. Once spaces sought out by naturalists for native plants, cemeteries are now often mowed and sometimes sprayed for insects. Let's discuss how we can improve these natural spaces for birds, insects and native plants.

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### "Constellation of Living Memorials" presented by Julie Fineman, Corrin Breeding, Matthew Orwatt, and Monica Newberry

Quoted from Jonathan Garcia, 2025 Class President, Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy, "I understand that CLM aims to: Revitalize neglected cemeteries to improve community well-being and the local environment. Engage diverse stakeholders including artists, scientists, educators, and community members in a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach. Leverage partnerships with organizations such as Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the 4-H program, and other youth initiatives to drive sustainable, long-term impact."

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### "Introducing the New Native Plant Primer – 225 Plants for an Earth-Friendly Garden" presented Andrea DeLong-Amaya

Introduction of a new book on gardening with Texas native plants.

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### Student Research Studies: "Quantifying Carbon Dynamics of Adaptive Multi-Paddock Grazing Across Spatial and Temporal Scales in Northern Texas" presented Chali Simpson

This study examines the impact of Adaptive Multi-Paddock (AMP) grazing on soil carbon dynamics by comparing annual soil carbon budgets of two AMP and CG ranch pairs under similar climate and soil conditions. We hypothesize that AMP systems enhance soil carbon storage, reinforcing their role as grassland carbon sinks.

Using a soil carbon budget model, we track key carbon inputs (aboveground biomass, fine root mortality, manure deposition) and carbon losses (microbial respiration, livestock consumption). Monthly measurements (May 2022-May 2023), isotope sampling, and continuous weather data provide insights into environmental drivers of carbon fluxes.

Preliminary findings suggest AMP retains more soil carbon than CG, particularly during drought years, but high spatial variability and potential underestimation of microbial contributions highlight the need for long-term monitoring. To improve accuracy, we are integrating eddy covariance measurements and the TIMBCA model to assess ecosystem-scale carbon fluxes and internal plant carbon allocation.

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### "Pollinators of Texas" presented by Wizzie Brown

Learn how to identify common pollinators found in Texas from bees and butterflies to beetles and flies.

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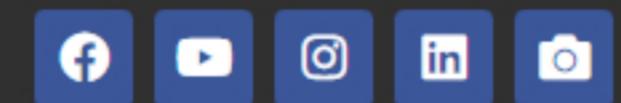
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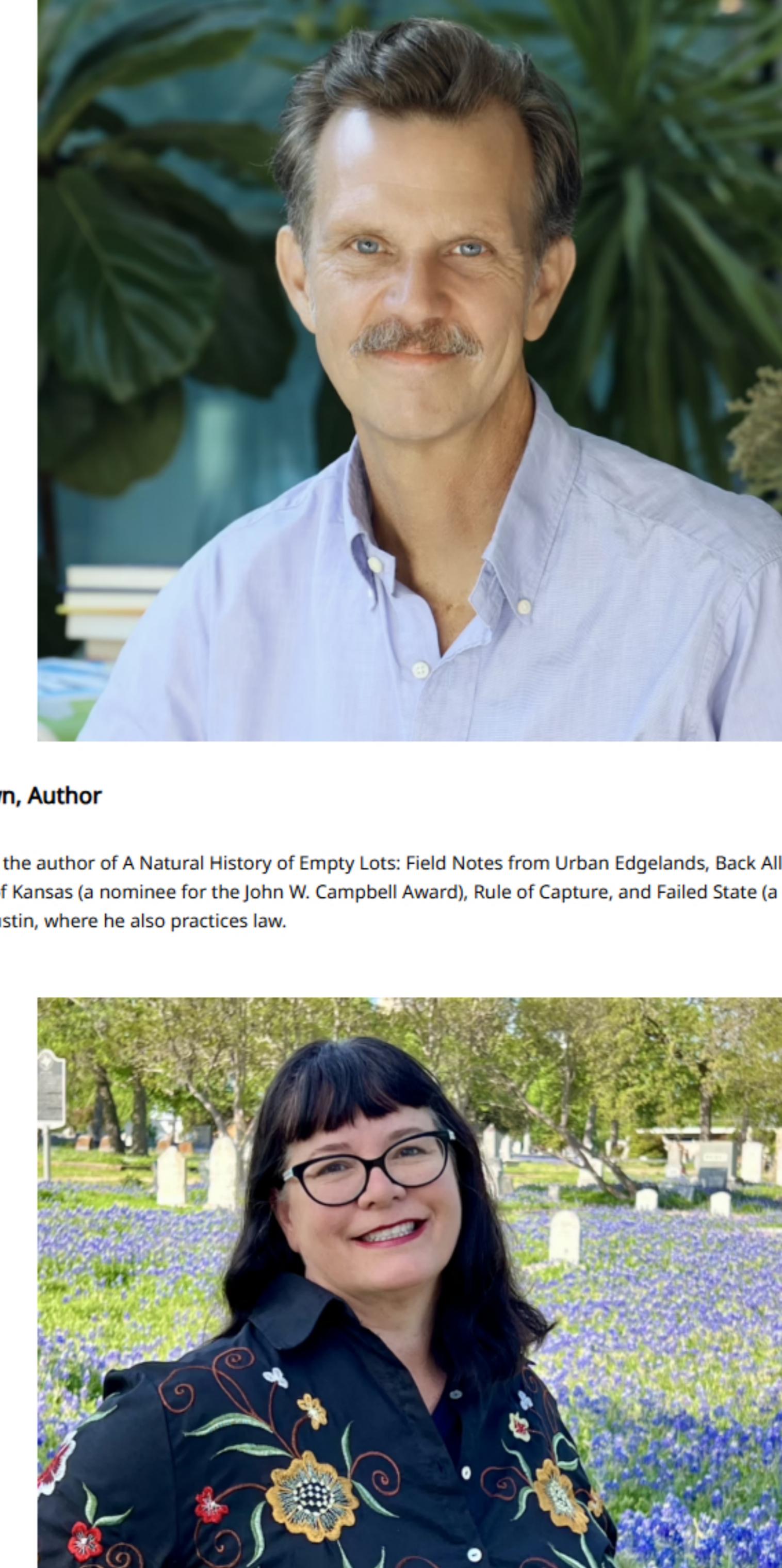
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## 2025 Symposium Speakers

The Native Plant Society of Texas is pleased to welcome our 2024 Spring Symposium Speakers:



Christopher Brown, Author

Christopher Brown is the author of *A Natural History of Empty Lots: Field Notes from Urban Edgelands, Back Alleys and Other Wild Places*, and the novels *Tropic of Kansas* (a nominee for the John W. Campbell Award), *Rule of Capture*, and *Failed State* (a nominee for the Philip K. Dick Award). He lives in Austin, where he also practices law.



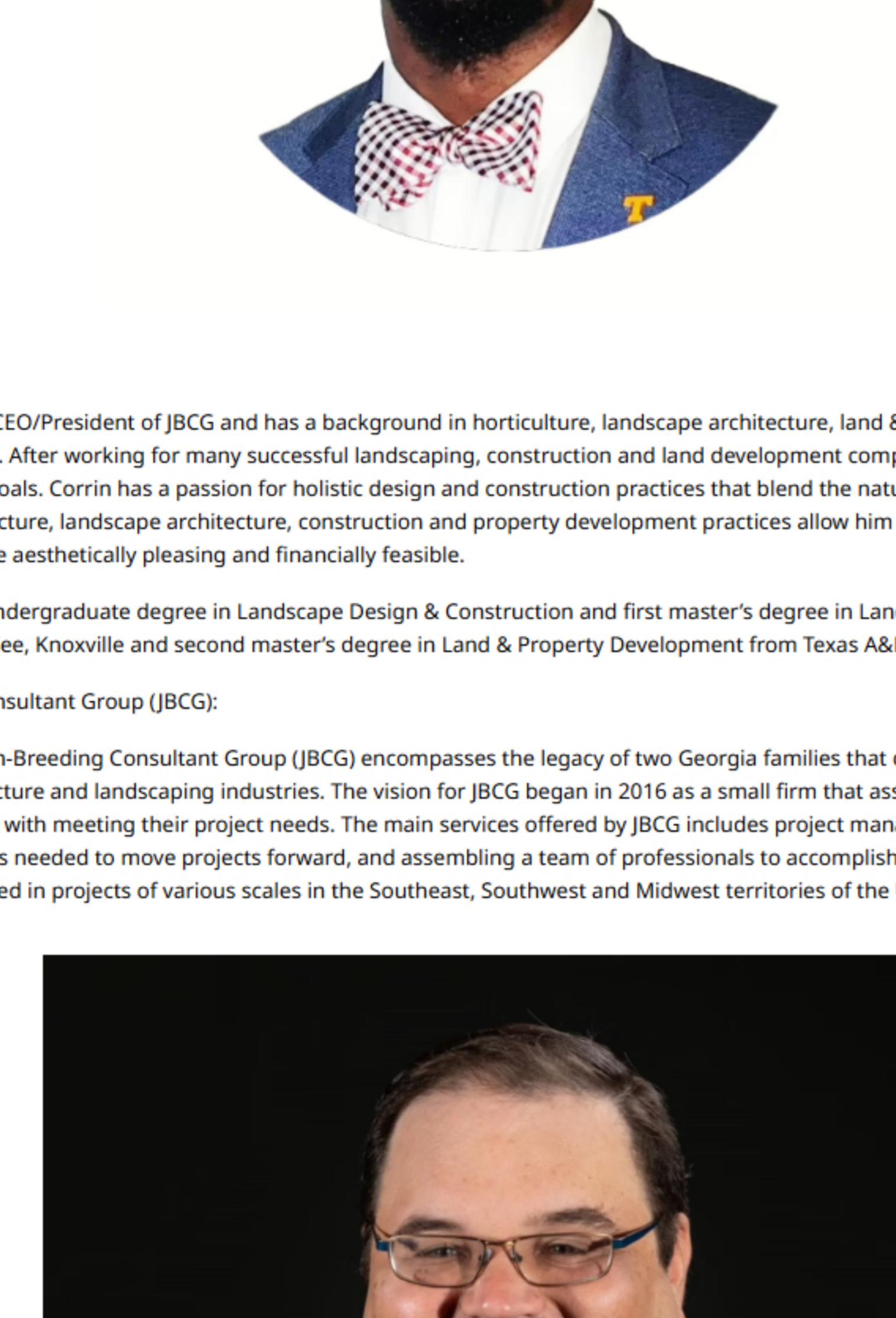
Jennifer Bristol, Author, Birder

Jennifer L. Bristol is a passionate advocate for birds and conservation in Texas, with a deep commitment to connecting people, especially youth, with nature. She is the author of *Parking Lot Birding: A Fun Guide to Discovering Birds in Texas and Cemetery Birding: An Unexpected Quest*, and the co-author of *George Bristol on Texas State Parks: The First 100 Years 1923-2023*. As the executive director of the Victor Emanuel Young Naturalist Camp Scholarship Fund, Jennifer ensures underserved youth have the opportunity to attend birding camps and experience the natural world.

Previously, she served as the director of the Texas Children in the Parks Network at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where she spearheaded initiatives to strengthen the connection between children, families, and nature. Her work earned her accolades like the Westgate Outdoors Discovery Center's Enduring Dedication Award and the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy's Nature Hero Award.

A dedicated environmentalist, she volunteers for the City of Austin Environmental Commission and Downtown Commission, as well as the Travis County Bird Citizen Advocate. On the Environmental Commission, she championed the Bird-Friendly Building Design resolution, promoting bird-friendly practices for birds.

A dedicated community leader and avid birder, Jennifer resides in Austin with her husband and five energetic dogs. Through her work and writing, she continues to inspire others to embrace the beauty and importance of the natural world.



Julie Fineman

President, Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery, 501C3

Founder, Constellation of Living Memorials

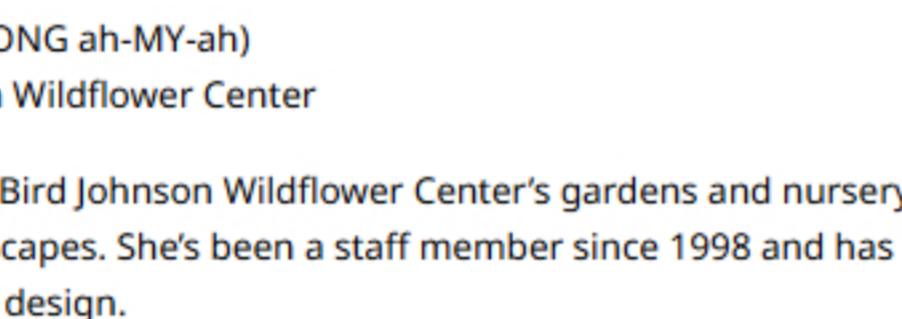
After 30 years as a award-winning Hollywood photographer, Julie photographic legacy is now housed in the permanent collection of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Library. Subsequently, she re-envisioned her life's focus through a year's internship on an organic farm in upstate New York. She now advocates for wildlife conservation through multiple programs that she has developed.

Since moving to Dallas in 2017, Julie has studied the native ecosystems of Texas and the native plants that thrive in the Dallas urban environment. In 2019, she began the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery, a 501C3 non-profit, restoring the historic Warren Ferris family cemetery in Dallas' Forest Hills neighborhood. Julie has guided the revitalization of the cemetery's landscape, organizing volunteers to clear invasive species, plant indigenous species, and expand biodiversity.

To sustain this work, Julie formed The Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery, a 501C3, garnering public & private support and expanding outreach. She produced a 7-minute documentary on Warren Ferris and the establishment of native wildlife habitat within Dallas, which was donated to the Dallas Public Library. The FWFC has partnered with the Dallas Pioneers Association, the Texas Conservation Alliance, the Dallas Discovery Gardeners, the North Texas Master Gardeners Association, and the Native Plant Society of Texas.

After five years, the result of the cemetery is a peaceful, contemplative setting, rekindling the neighborhoods appreciation of its historic past, restoring biodiversity, and honoring the pioneers buried there. FWFC has earned a Preservation Dallas Achievement Award and is designated as a Certified Wildlife Habitat and Monarch Waystation.

Julie's new initiatives for the FWFC include the Constellation of Living Memorials Program, which guides other neglected cemeteries in Indigenous landscape restoration and cultural archeological research.



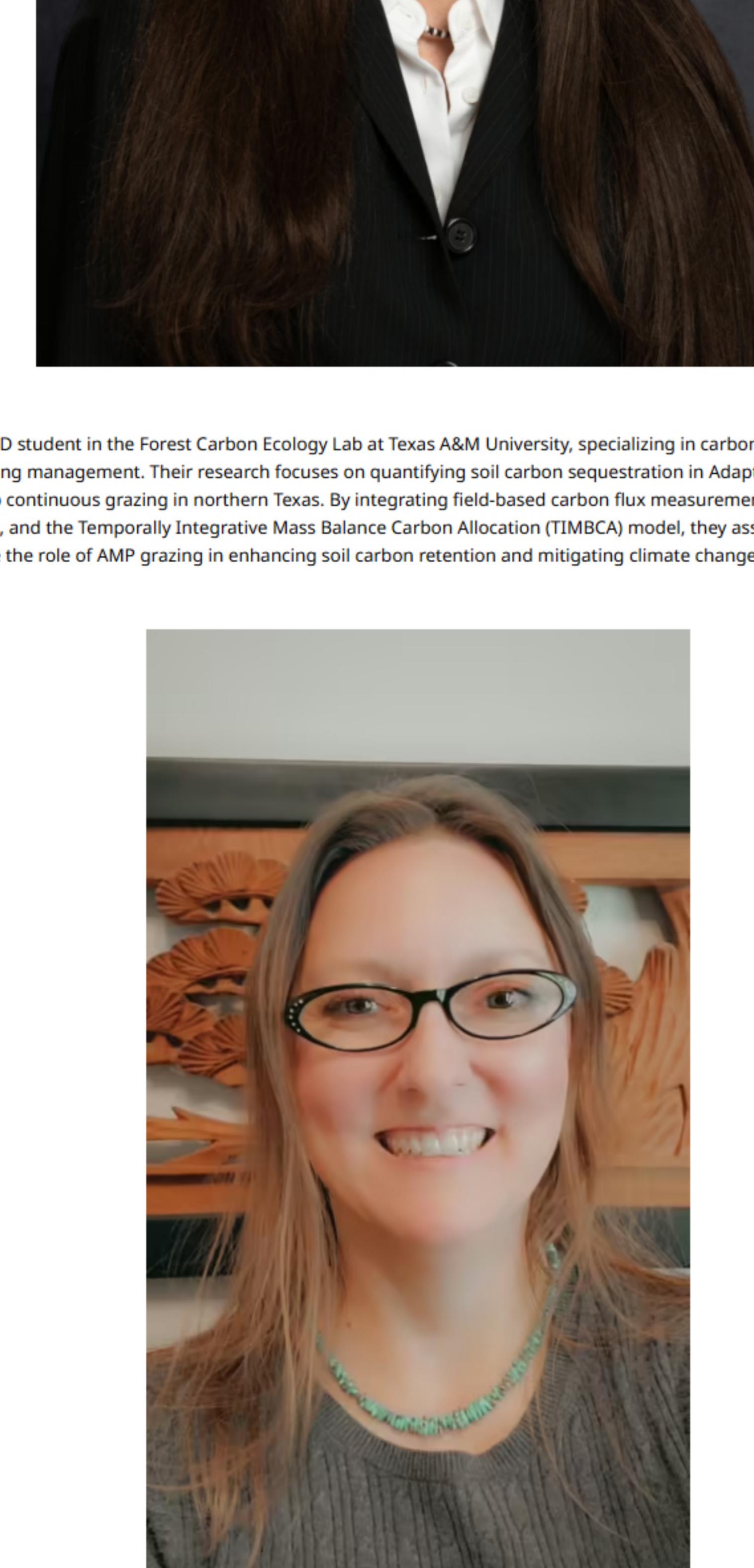
Corrin Breeding

Corrin Breeding is CEO/President of JBCG and has a background in horticulture, landscape architecture, land & property development and project management. After working for many successful landscaping, construction and land development companies he decided to pursue his entrepreneurial goals. Corrin has a passion for holistic design, construction practices that blend the natural and built environment. His knowledge of architecture, landscape architecture, construction and property development practices allow him to drive professional teams to create spaces that are aesthetically pleasing and financially feasible.

Corrin received his undergraduate degree in Landscape Design & Construction and first master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and second master's degree in Land & Property Development from Texas A&M University.

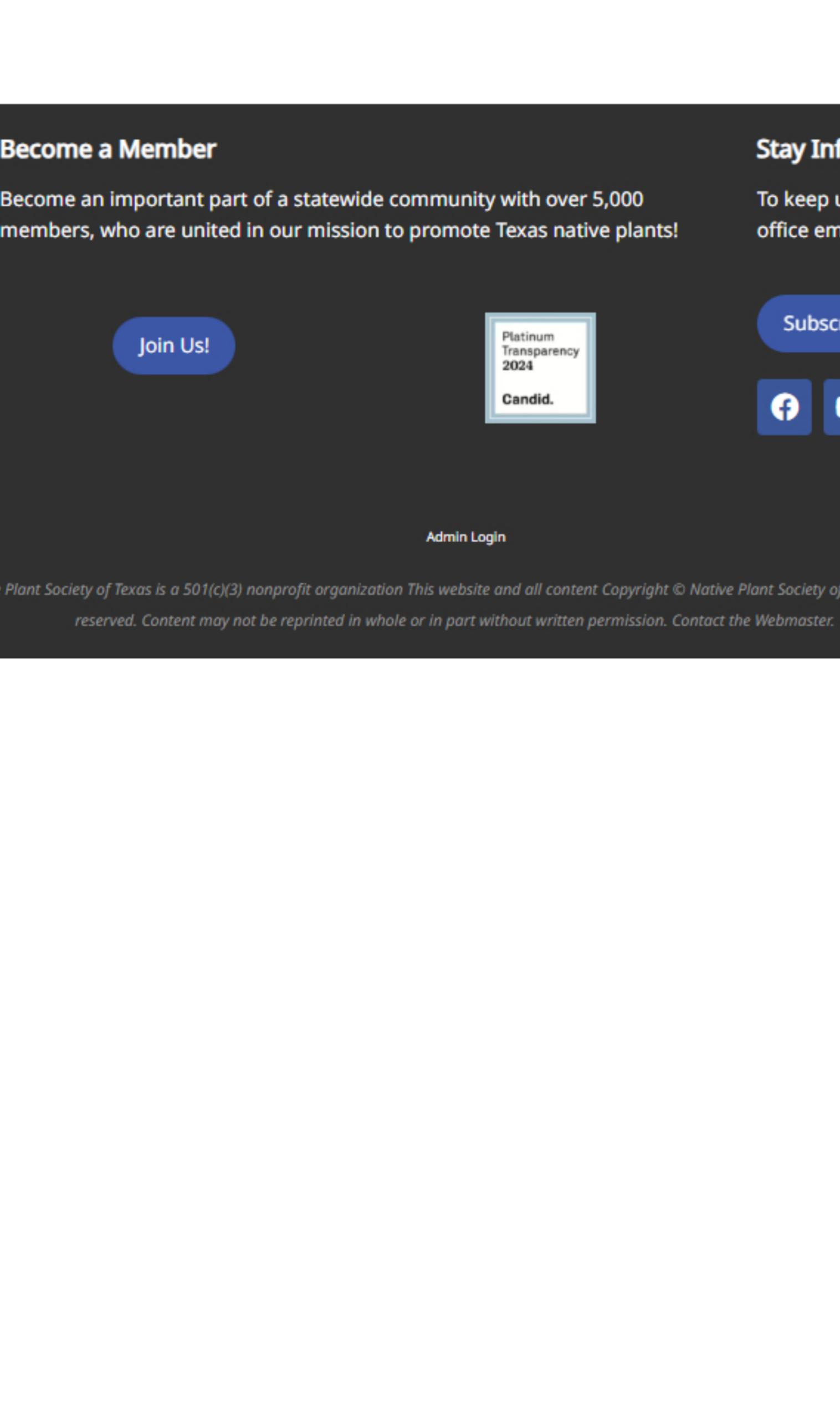
Jackson-Breeding Consultant Group (JBCG):

The mission of Jackson-Breeding Consultant Group (JBCG) is to encompass the legacy of four Georgia families that serve businesses in the construction, architecture and landscaping industries. The vision for JBCG began in 2010 as a small firm that assists municipalities, companies and individual clients with meeting their project needs. The main services offered by JBCG includes project management, providing professional drawings needed to move projects forward, and assembling a team of professionals to accomplish small to large scale tasks. JBCG has been involved in projects of various scales in the Southeast, Southwest and Midwest territories of the US.



Matthew Orwak

Matthew Orwak, agriculture and natural resources, Dallas County. Orwak, of Fort Worth, earned his bachelor's at the University of Texas at Arlington and his master's in horticulture at Texas A&M. He worked with the rose breeding and genetics program and was a teaching assistant. He completed an internship with Agrilife Extension in Tarrant and Denton counties before starting his career as an Extension agent with the Dallas County Extension Service. His passion for horticulture began with his grandfather, who grew vegetables and fruit in his grandfather's orchard and pecan grove helped him develop a love for growing vegetables, fruits and roses. Orwak said there are many untapped niche markets for small farms in urban areas, and he aims to help entrepreneurs find those and develop sustainable urban crop production through the outreach of Agrilife Extension.



Andrea Delong-Amaya

Andrea Delong-Amaya (ahr-DEONG ah-di-LONG ah-MY-ah)

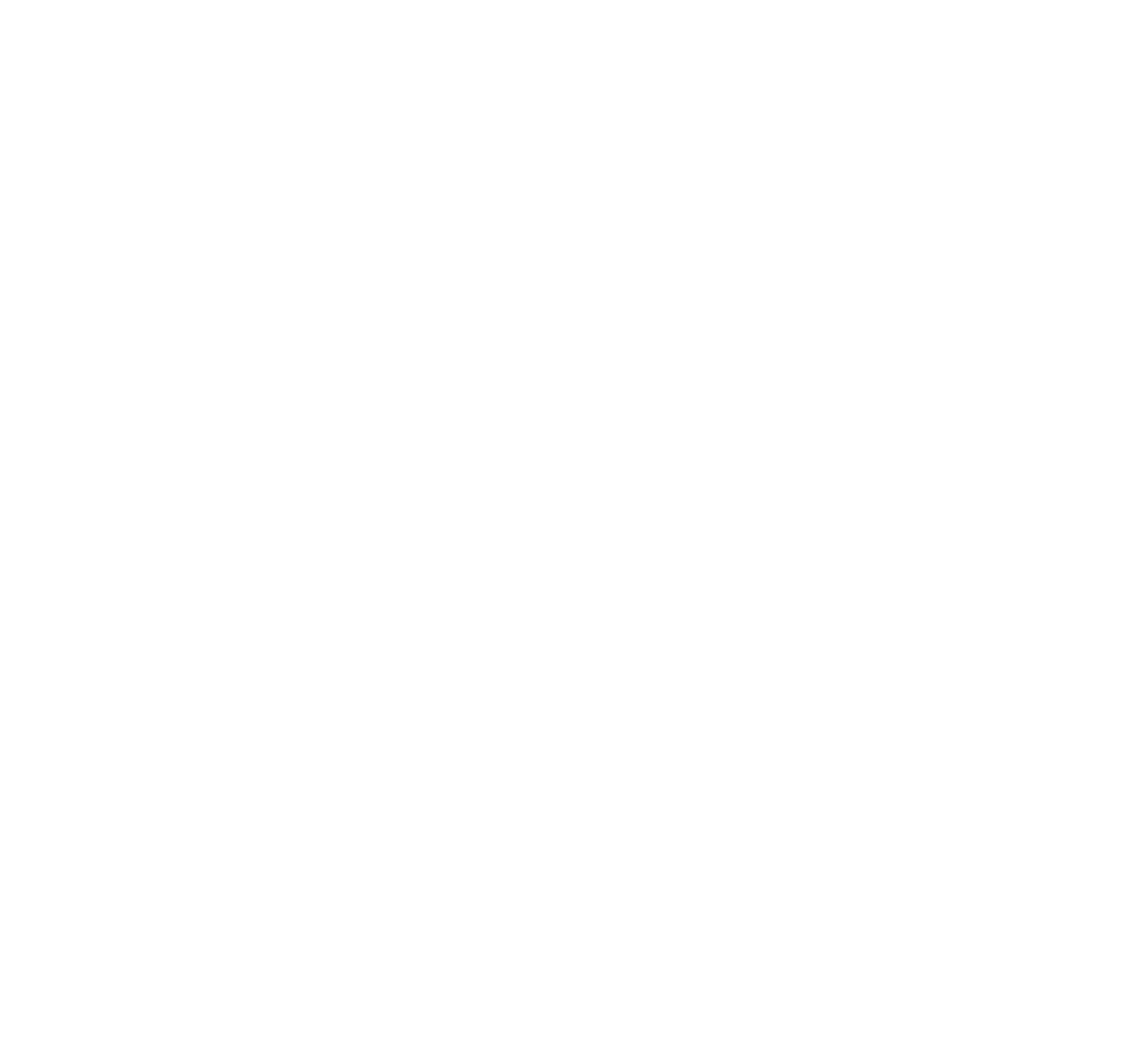
Director of Horticulture, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Andrea Delong-Amaya oversees the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's gardens and nursery programs and is passionate about sharing the value of native plants in planned landscapes. She's been a staff member since 1998 and has over 30 years of experience with Texas native plants in horticulture, ecology and garden design.

She teaches classes in native plant horticulture and has contributed numerous peer-reviewed articles to publications such as *Texas' Fine Gardening*, *Organic Gardening*, *American Gardeners Association's Public Gardens*, *Neil Sperry's Gardens* and *e-Gardens*, *Texas Gardener* and *Wildflower* (the Center's member magazine). Keep an eye out for her upcoming book, *Texas Native Plant Primer* (Timber Press), in March of 2025.

Delong-Amaya has appeared numerous times on Central Texas Gardner, PBS' long-running television program, and was a two-time guest on WNYC's Science Friday. Jennifer Jewel featured Andrea's work in her 2020 book, *"The Earth in Her Hands: 75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants,"* and she was a featured guest on Andrea's podcast *Cultivating the Soil*.

The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College will be honoring Delong-Amaya with the prestigious 2025 Scott Garden & Horticulture Award in March 2025.



Chai Simpson

Chai Simpson is a Research Scientist in the Forest Carbon Ecology Lab at Texas A&M University, specializing in carbon dynamics, grassland ecology, and sustainable grazing management. Their research focuses on understanding soil carbon sequestration in Adaptive Multi-Paddock Grazing systems compared to continuous grazing in northern Texas. By integrating field-based carbon flux measurements, A&G biomass analysis, eddy covariance data, and the Temporally Integrative Mass Balance Carbon Allocation (TIMBCA) model, they assess soil carbon inputs and outputs to determine the role of AMP grazing in enhancing soil carbon retention and mitigating climate change.



Wizzie Brown

Wizzie Brown is a Senior Extension Program Specialist with Texas A&amp;M AgriLife Extension Service for 22. She works to educate others about insects and integrated pest management and hopefully succeeds in teaching that insects have their place in our world. Wizzie is a Board-Certified Entomologist specializing in urban and structural pest management, but also covers landscapes, gardens, native pollinators, insect identification as well as other topics. She received her Bachelor of Science in entomology from Ohio State University and a Master of

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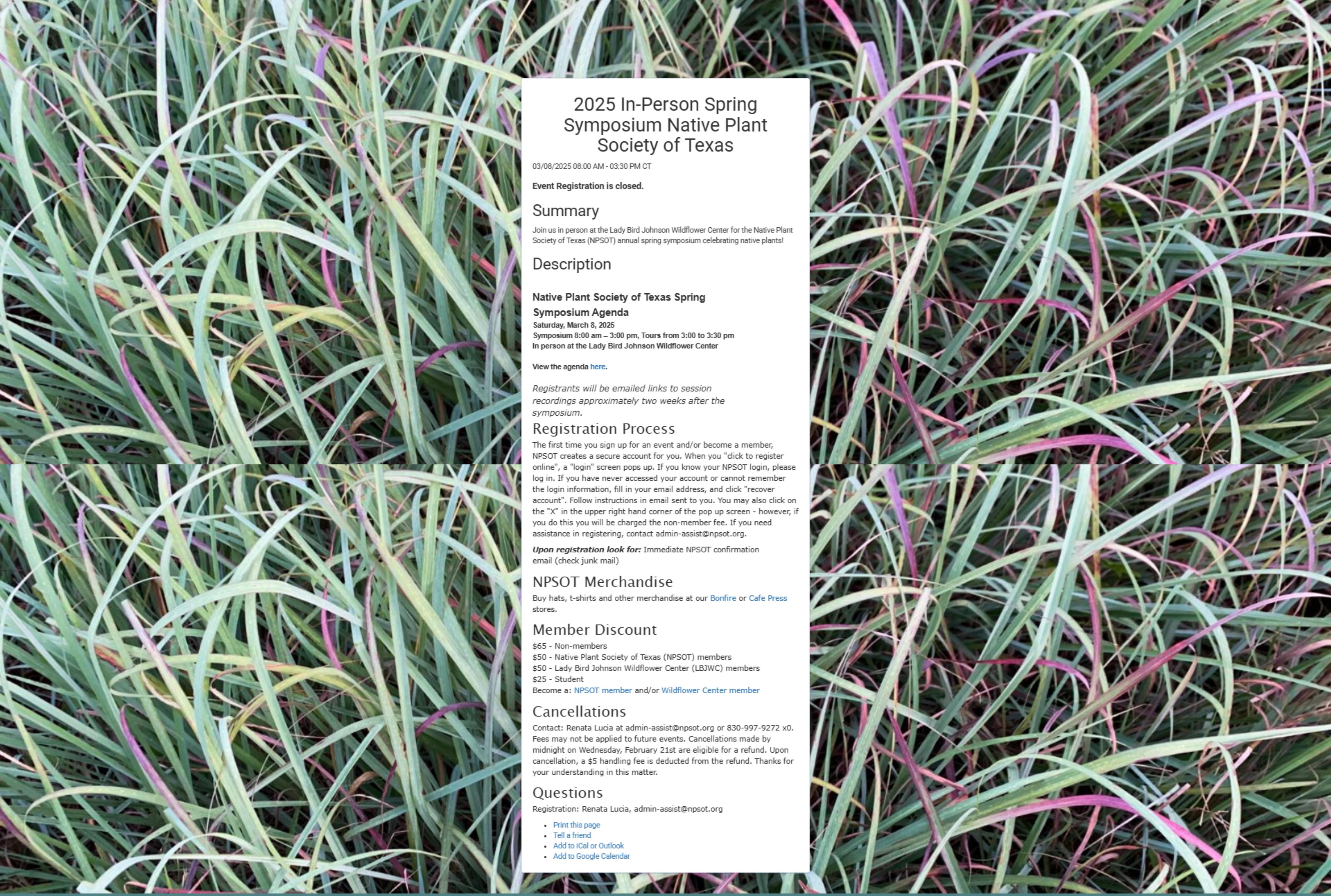
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## 2025 In-Person Spring Symposium Native Plant Society of Texas

03/08/2025 08:00 AM - 03:30 PM CT

Event Registration is closed.

### Summary

Join us in person at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) annual spring symposium celebrating native plants!

### Description

#### Native Plant Society of Texas Spring Symposium Agenda

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Symposium 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, Tours from 3:00 to 3:30 pm  
In person at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

[View the agenda here.](#)

*Registrants will be emailed links to session recordings approximately two weeks after the symposium.*

### Registration Process

The first time you sign up for an event and/or become a member, NPSOT creates a secure account for you. When you "click to register online", a "login" screen pops up. If you know your NPSOT login, please log in. If you have never accessed your account or cannot remember the login information, fill in your email address, and click "recover account". Follow instructions in email sent to you. You may also click on the "X" in the upper right hand corner of the pop up screen - however, if you do this you will be charged the non-member fee. If you need assistance in registering, contact [admin-assist@npsot.org](mailto:admin-assist@npsot.org).

**Upon registration look for:** Immediate NPSOT confirmation email (check junk mail)

### NPSOT Merchandise

Buy hats, t-shirts and other merchandise at our [Bonfire](#) or [Cafe Press](#) stores.

### Member Discount

\$65 - Non-members

\$50 - Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) members

\$50 - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (LBJWC) members

\$25 - Student

Become a: [NPSOT member](#) and/or [Wildflower Center member](#)

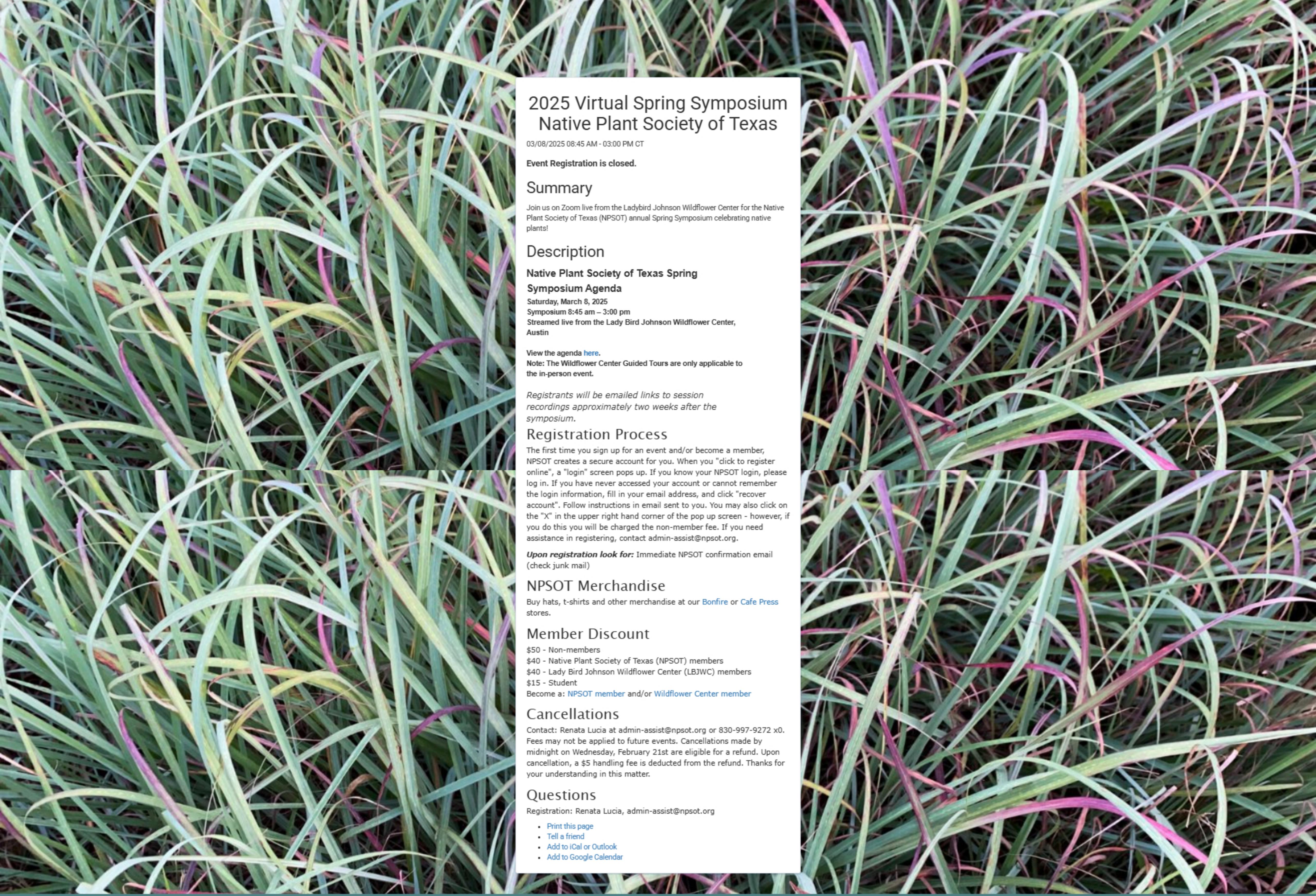
### Cancellations

Contact: Renata Lucia at [admin-assist@npsot.org](mailto:admin-assist@npsot.org) or 830-997-9272 x0. Fees may not be applied to future events. Cancellations made by midnight on Wednesday, February 21st are eligible for a refund. Upon cancellation, a \$5 handling fee is deducted from the refund. Thanks for your understanding in this matter.

### Questions

Registration: Renata Lucia, [admin-assist@npsot.org](mailto:admin-assist@npsot.org)

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## 2025 Virtual Spring Symposium Native Plant Society of Texas

03/08/2025 08:45 AM - 03:00 PM CT

Event Registration is closed.

### Summary

Join us on Zoom live from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center for the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) annual Spring Symposium celebrating native plants!

### Description

#### Native Plant Society of Texas Spring Symposium Agenda

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Symposium 8:45 am – 3:00 pm

Streamed live from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin

[View the agenda here.](#)

Note: The Wildflower Center Guided Tours are only applicable to the in-person event.

*Registrants will be emailed links to session recordings approximately two weeks after the symposium.*

### Registration Process

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\$40 - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (LBJWC) members

\$15 - Student

Become a: [NPSOT member](#) and/or [Wildflower Center member](#)

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