

# Native Plant Society of Texas

## 2025 Benny Simpson Fellow

### Cindy McInturff

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Many accolades. Has served at the state and the chapter level.

“When I started attending meetings at the Dallas NPSOT chapter thirteen years ago, I noticed a member who seemed to be extremely helpful and knowledgeable. I asked her name, and it was Cindy Kearney. My respect for her knowledge and participation has been growing ever since.

Cindy's significant list of contributions to the Dallas chapter and the state-wide organization can't define all that she has done. Her dedication to constantly learning more about native plants and sharing that information has created an atmosphere of learning and established our chapter as a place to learn about and promote native landscaping. In addition to being our long-term president, plant sale organizer, webmaster, social media guru, and more, she provides personal guidance to many members. She knows who is in the know and maintains contact with the most knowledgeable experts in the state and beyond. Most impressive is that she has done and continues to do all this while working effectively and successfully in a challenging and unrelated career.

Cindy has been the glue that held the Dallas chapter together and helped it grow during times when very few others were willing or able to take on some of her many responsibilities. Now that we have some wonderfully energetic and capable younger leaders, Cindy continues to mentor them and fill in wherever help is needed.

#### NPSOT roles and participation:

Clear Lake symposium committee and 'day of' coordinator  
State symposium committee for 2016, 2019,  
State photo contest committee 2020, 2021, 2022  
2018 state strategic planning committee for 2019-2024  
Chapter Program Coordinator 2014-2020  
Chapter Vice-President 2015 (with a President in name only)



Chapter Social Media coordinator 2015-2024  
NLCP Tech Coordinator, walk leader and helpful volunteer 2016-2021  
Chapter President for 6 years, 2016-2022  
Chapter Webmaster 2016-2022  
Chapter Plant Sale Coordinator 2019-2023  
Chapter NICE Coordinator, 2020-201  
Chapter Past President 2022-2024 accolades. Has served at the state and the chapter level."

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### Jerry Morrisey

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Jerry is a long time member who helped grow the San Antonio chapter from its infancy. He has served as a chapter officer- including president. He is especially recognized for his broad knowledge of native plants including many uncommon varieties. Because of his knowledge, he has led numerous native plant walks which are always popular. He is very deserving.

Jerry Morrisey has been a very active member of the San Antonio chapter for many years. He helps organize regular plant walks and meetups and is the lead organizer of our annual plant sale at the SAWS spring bloom festival. He is currently leading a project to capture the history of the San Antonio chapter by interviewing original members and organizing and cataloguing documents from the start of the chapter.



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### Lee Winkler

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In submitting this nomination for Lee Winkler our committee wants to publicly acknowledge her many contributions to our chapter over the 27 years since first organizing the establishment of the Highland Lakes chapter of NPSOT. In 1998, Lee organized and through publicity efforts conducted the first meeting to establish the Highland Lakes chapter at Marble Falls Library. As there were only 10 original members, the minimum required to have a chapter, board positions were challenging to fill. Lee and her husband Ellis, volunteered to be co-Presidents. Lee also took on the roles of Program Chair, publicity and editor/creator of the first newsletter. Over the years she has been very instrumental in motivating others to take positions as well.

Lee served as President a second time later on when the need arose. As positions opened up or were filled by other volunteers, Lee's roles changed many times. When the next editor of the newsletter, Mike Childers, retired after many years, Lee again took on the position of editor in 2020. She was editor for another five years.

Of course, with the wonderful assistance and energy of other members, some of the projects Lee helped implement to promote native plant education and awareness included:

- Planned outreach activities at local schools
- Met with staff at Colorado Bend State Park to talk about using native plants at the park
- Fundraisers for years at events such as: The Marble Falls Christmas Lights, Marble Falls Boat Show food booth for community awareness of HLNSPOT.
- As Program Chair she brought in speakers for monthly meetings to promote awareness of the importance of native plants, water conservation and the need to protect pollinators
- Scheduled meetings for the 3rd Saturday of the month for the convenience of people who work or had to travel to meetings. Highland Lakes chapter covers a very large area from Johnson City to Llano.



- Planned many field trips for our group including touring many ranches in the area that showcase ranch restorations.

Lee Winkler has played a vital role in establishing this chapter and encouraging its growth to our ever-increasing number of members today. Her determination kept the group active and growing through the years. She spent a lot of time convincing people to be officers to keep the chapter alive. Lee's efforts helped keep the HLNPSOT chapter in this area for many years, always promoting the benefits of native plants. At 90 years old, and after 5 more years as editor of the newsletter, she has decided to pass on the baton and yet is still willing to remain as consultant.