



2009 Fall Symposium

October 15-18, 2009
Howard Johnson Plaza
Wichita Falls

People, Prairies: Partners—Wichita Falls, October 15-18, 2009

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The Native Plant Society of Texas has held an Annual Symposium in 17 different locations around the state, and in 2009 we meet in [Wichita Falls](#). Our focus is the junction of the West Cross Timbers and the Rolling Plains, which is very near the east-west centerline of the continental United States. We will cover not only the flora, but also the fauna, history and people of the area.

Please read the following descriptions or [download a brochure](#) before registering online so you will understand your options.

Overview

Come on Thursday afternoon to the River Bend Nature Center to visit the Ruby N. Priddy Butterfly and Nature Conservatory and then stay for buffalo burgers and beans (included in full registration) and enjoy cowboy poets Doyle Wood and Hal Newsome. River Bend Nature Center is located at 2200 3rd Street, near the entrance to Lucy Park. This is very close to the Howard Johnson hotel.

[Friday morning](#) will be filled with [presentation of papers](#), and Friday afternoon will have [Workshops and Field Trips](#) to some of the local attractions. Be sure to get back in time on Friday night to Lucy Park for the buffalo roast and trimmings (guaranteed to fill you up), and you might learn a little about Native American life. (Also included in full registration).

[After a morning of more papers, Saturday afternoon](#) will be filled with the [business meetings](#), and the day will end with the annual awards banquet at the Howard Johnson. Steven Chamblee will share his observations of life from the plants' point of view. (Also included in full registration.)

The Silent Auction will, as usual, run from Friday morning until 3:30 Saturday afternoon. We need your donations of items for the Auction. There will also be vendors of various things and some plant sales. Sunday morning will be checkout at the hotel and departure for [Field Trips](#) on your way home.

Registration

Full registration, including the proceedings and three evening meals, is \$120. You may also register for Friday or Saturday only at the daily rate of \$50.

This year we are also going to have a non-member general admission of \$10 per day for local folks who would like to listen to the presentations and visit the vendors without receiving a copy of the Proceedings or participating in the Field Trips and Workshops.

Accommodations

The headquarters hotel is the [Howard Johnson Plaza](#), 401 Broad Street. Phone **940-766-6000** and ask for the special rate of \$64 per night. To get to the Howard Johnson Plaza, take the Broad Street exit off US 281/287. The presentation of papers, business meetings and Saturday night Awards Banquet will be at the Howard Johnson hotel.

If you are bringing your RV, check out the [Wichita Falls RV Park](#) at 2944 Seymour Highway.

Our Hosts

We are hosted by the Red River Chapter (Paul Dowlearn, president), with much help from the almost brand new Young County Wild Flower Power Chapter (Susan Fanchier, president), the [River Bend Nature Center](#), and the [Native Prairies Association of Texas](#).



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People, Prairies: Partners—Friday agenda

Friday agenda

October 16, 2009 (Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel)

8:00 am Silent Auction opens. Bring your donated items.

8:15 – 8:30 Welcome and Announcements. (Texoma Ballroom)

8:30 – 9:00 *Rare Plant Communities and Rare Plants of the Rolling Plains* by Jason Singhurst

The Rolling Plains is the largest natural region in Texas and is underlain by the Pennsylvanian in the east and the Permian in the west. Several rare and declining plant communities in the Rolling Plains are discussed.

9:00 – 9:30 *Databasing the Plants of Texas at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) with Society Internships* by Amanda Neill

The Fredericksburg Chapter and the Trinity Forks Chapter have helped establish summer internships at BRIT to scan and database specimens in the Herbarium. This project and its goals are discussed.

9:30 – 10:00 *The “Appaloosa” Prairie of North Central Texas* by Jerry Payne

This session will cover fifty years of Jerry's personal fascination and observations of the tall, mid, and short grass prairies of north central Texas. This prairie is a mosaic resembling the hind quarters of a spotted appaloosa horse.

10:00 – 10:30 Break. Refreshments for Symposium registrants.

10:30 – 11:00 *When Buffalo Roamed the Prairie* by Lita Watson

We look at early North Texas through the eyes of the explorers and ranchers, and we share the dreams of those who came later.

11:00 – 12:00 *A Visit with a Time Traveler* by Zoe Kirkpatrick

Meet Wash-te-Kiminda, Lakota Sioux woman, as she steps out of the past to share with us what life was like when her people were the keepers of the land. She will weave a bit of Native American history, archeology, folklore, daily life and humor into her story before she returns to the past as quickly as she appeared to us.

12:00– 1:00 Lunch on your own.

1:00 – 5:00 Workshops & Field Trips

6:30 pm Buffalo Roast at Lucy Park Pavilion



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People, Prairies: Partners—Friday field trips and workshops

Friday field trips and workshops

Casual, comfortable clothing is recommended. Everyone should wear proper footwear (comfortable hiking or walking shoes) and bring plenty of water. Other items to bring: binoculars, folding chairs, rain gear, jackets (check the forecast).

#1 Workshop 'Native Landscape Certification' presented by Bea Caraway and Melissa Miller

The San Antonio Chapter, has developed the Native Landscape Certification Program to attract and keep members and to provide a service to the community. A four-part program, it provides students with knowledge of 40 landscape-worthy natives and basic landscaping ideas (Level I) through landscape-scale restoration (Level IV). Bea, Chapter President, and Melissa, NCLP Chair, will share their experience and plans for taking the program on the road – perhaps to your chapter.

#2 Workshop 'Making Paper from Almost Any Plant' presented by Leslie Fernandes.

This is a hands-on workshop in which all participants will create handmade paper. The workshop will include a basic timeline for the evolution of papermaking. Basic papermaking techniques will be demonstrated, and will focus on the use of various plants in the papermaking process. Leslie C. Fernandes is the Educational Coordinator at River Bend Nature Center, and has an MFA in studio art.

#3 Workshop 'Plant Propagation' presented by Martha Davis.

This is a hands-on workshop where you will collect native plants on the grounds of River Bend and learn the propagation techniques for seeds and cuttings, plus you get to take home your projects. Martha Davis is the Exhibits Curator/Naturalist for River Bend Nature Center, and propagates plants for Wichita Valley Nursery. She has an MS in biology from Midwestern State University.

#4 Field Trip Wee-Chi-Tah Park – Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

This is the legendary crossing of Comanche Indians on horseback at the original site of the falls. Bronze sculptures by local artist Jack Stevens accurately portray the event. Explore the Hike and Bike Trail that runs along the north bank of the Wichita River from the Wee-Chi-Tah sculptures to Lucy Park. Leader: Colin Johnston, Red River NPSOT.

#5 Field Trip Lake Arrowhead State Park – Difficulty: Easy to moderate walking

Improved hiking trail with dominant plant species marked with name tags. This was a project conceived and maintained by the Rolling Plains Master Naturalists. The Park is located about 20 miles south of the city on FM 1954. There will be a park entrance fee of \$2.00. Leader: Jane McGough, TMN.

#6 Field Trip The Prairie – Difficulty: Easy walking

Restored from a 200-acre wheat field, this alternative housing development is now open for business. This project has all native grasses and forbs with minimal disruption by homebuilders. We don't know of another community of its kind in the state. Leader: John Hirschi, Red River Chapter.

#7 Field Trip Native and Natural Landscapes – Difficulty: Easy walking

Walk the grounds of River Bend Nature Center. Wheelchair accessible paths wind through natural wooded habitat, restored habitat, ponds, and ?semi-formal? gardens. Leader: Paul Dowlearn, Red River Chapter.



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People, Prairies: Partners—Saturday agenda

Saturday agenda

October 17, 2009 (Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel)

8:15 – 8:30 Welcome and announcements

8:30 – 9:00 *Ornamental Garden Plants Native to the Rolling Plains and Cross Timbers of Texas* by Peter Loos

A number of plants native to the Rolling Plains and Western Cross Timbers are worthy of usage in ornamental horticulture as landscape plants. The paper looks at a small sampling that is available in the nursery trade.

9:00 – 9:30 *Host Plant Preference in Heliconid Butterflies* by Martha Davis

Oviposition behavior of three heliconid butterflies, zebra longwing (*Heliconius charitonius*), gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*), and orange julia (*Dryas julia*) was observed at River Bend Nature Center. The three butterfly species varied in their preference for available larval host plants, the native maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*) and non-native blue crown passionvine (*P. caerulea*). The factors involved in host plant selection and the effects of non-native plant species on butterfly ecology are discussed.

9:30 – 10:00 *Grassland and Grassland Bird Conservation on Fort Hood* by Charlotte Reemts

Fort Hood, one of the country's largest military installations at the southern tip of the Cross Timbers, has been an important conservation partner with The Nature Conservancy. In addition to a large population of two endangered songbirds (golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo), Fort Hood is home to many grassland birds of concern. TNC has long worked with Fort Hood to protect and monitor the endangered bird species, and recently their work has expanded to study grassland restoration and grassland birds.

10:00 – 10:30 Break Refreshments for Symposium registrants

10:30 – 11:00 *Plant Release Type for Ecosystem Restoration* by Dr. Gary Rea

Commercial sources of native seeds and plants are needed for resource conservation programs and ecosystem restoration projects. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service makes cultivar and previetal releases of native plant species available for commercial production. A discussion of this work.

11:00 – 11:30 *Seed Production Comparison of Three Eastern Gamagrasses in East Texas* by Alan Shadow

Two eastern gamagrass [*Tripsacum dactyloides* (L.) L.] cultivars, 'Jackson' and 'Medina', and one accession (9043629, Nacogdoches County, TX) were comparatively evaluated for seed production characteristics.

11:30 – 12:00 *Flora Oklahoma Project* by Dr. James Estes

The vascular flora of Oklahoma comprises 173 families, 868 genera and 2,540 species, representative of vastly different phytogeographic regions with species characteristic of the Eastern Deciduous Forest and the Central Grasslands the most common. This paper describes a project of writing a flora by committee and in stages.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch on your own

1:00 – 1:30 *Key Vegetative Species of the Southern Rolling Plains of Texas* by Lee Knox

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service has identified 44 unique ecological sites in the southern rolling plains of Texas. The key species, their interaction between each other and the influence of historic disturbances upon these interactions will be discussed.

1:30 – 2:00 Chapter Leaders' Meeting

2:30 – 3:00 Annual Meeting. Business will include election of new officers and voting on proposed by-law changes. See [Member News](#) for details.

3:30 – 4:00 Board Meeting

5:00 pm Silent Auction ends

5:30 – 6:30 Pick up Silent Auction Items

6:00 – 7:00 Cash Bar and Social

7:00 pm Awards Banquet.

Keynote Speaker: Steven Chamblee, **"Petals, Prickles, and People on the Prairie"**
Observations of life, from the plants' point of view.



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People, Prairies: Partners--*Sunday field trips*

Sunday field trips

Casual, comfortable clothing is recommended. Everyone should wear proper footwear (comfortable hiking or walking shoes) and bring plenty of water. Other items to bring: binoculars, folding chairs, rain gear, jackets (check the forecast).

#1 Field Trip – Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge – Difficulty: Easy to moderate walking

This is a National Wildlife Refuge located just north and slightly west of Lawton/Fort Sill in Oklahoma. The granite mountains are said to be some of the oldest in North America. Many endemic plants are found here, including the Caddo Maple. There are resident bison, longhorn and elk herds. The area is steeped in legend and history. Leader: Ralph Godfrey, Fire Management Officer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

#2 Field Trip – Copper Breaks State Park – Difficulty: Easy to moderate walking

Known simply as 'The Breaks' by early settlers, Copper Breaks State Park offers vistas of mesas and 'badlands'. The entire area is steeped in history: The Comanche hunted buffalo here and defended the area against encroaching pioneers for more than 150 years. You access the park from Highway 6 which was once known as the McKenzie Trail – a major cattle trail and pioneer wagon road. Leader: Park Staff.

#3 Field Trip – Birdwell/Clark Ranch – Difficulty: Easy to moderate walking

Located on US 82 just east of Henrietta, the Birdwell/Clark ranch is Rolling Plains/Western Cross Timbers at its best. Rolling hills covered with little bluestem stretch from horizon to horizon with pecan, post oak, and Mexican plum hardwoods in the bottoms. About 25 miles east of Wichita Falls. Leader: Jason Spangler, NPAT, with Ranch Staff.

#4 Field Trip – Wildcatter Ranch and Resort – Difficulty: Easy Walking

Located 6 miles south of Graham on Highway 16, Wildcatter Ranch was a part of the original Brazos Indian Reservation designated by Captain Randolph Marcy in the 1850's. Later it was a working cattle ranch and is today one of the outstanding tourist destinations in North Texas. More information is available at wildcatter.com. Field trip in a wagon with some walking. Then, if you wish, enjoy an optional meal (\$20.00) at the Wildcatter Steakhouse. Leader: John Paclik, Natural Resource Manager, NRCS.

#5 Field Trip – Sealing Ranch– Difficulty: Easy Access/Walking

Located west of Windhorst off SH 174, is definitely where the rolling Plains meet the Western Cross Timbers. The historic Marcy Trail Pass located on the ranch was used by settlers headed west and by Plains Indians, who left hieroglyphs in the escarpment outcrops. A working cattle/oil production ranch, Wilson Sealing is third generation owned. Leader: TBA.

#6 Field Trip – Springer Ranch – Difficulty: Easy Access/Walking

Located just a few miles northwest of Archer City on River Road in the Little Wichita River drainage, Springer Ranch is true Rolling Plains habitat. Historical sites on the property include the Comanche Exodus Trail, Parilla-Veal-Mares trail (1781), Marcy-Neighbors trail, and the Geraldine fossil beds. Leader: Jerry Payne (USDA/NRCS, retired), Payne's Range and Wildlife Consulting.

#7 Field Trip – Chandor Gardens – Difficulty: Easy Access/Walking

Chandor Gardens is a lovely 3.5 acre oasis in Weatherford, Texas. Built by prominent portraitist Douglas Chandor between 1936 and 1953, it was renovated to its former glory after 16 years. The garden has both European and Asian influences plus a 30-foot waterfall, sculptured dragon fountain, and koi ponds. Leader: Steve Chamblee, Chief Horticulturalist.

#8 Field Trip – Knox City Plant Materials Research Center – Difficulty: Easy Access/walking

The James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center near Knox City will give you an closeup look at some of the work being done by the USDA today. Included will be a short history and update of the Center, a tour of the new Service Center, as well as tours of the new Greenhouse, processing facilities and of the production and research fields. Leader: Brandon Carr, Soil Conservationist.



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