31st Annual Native Plant Society Of Texas Fall Symposium
Thursday, October 13 – Sunday, October 16, 2011
Omni Houston Hotel at Westside (13210 Katy Freeway and Eldridge Parkway)

**Celebrate Native Plants and Make A Difference!**

**Texas Native Plant Week (Oct. 16-22, 2011)** is a time to recognize the role of native plants in conservation efforts. Visit a native plant preserve to find inspiration in Mother Nature's garden. Create a backyard WildScapes habitat. Planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers helps conserve water, improve water quality, provide habitat, and keeps the "wild" in Texas. Celebrate native plants this fall and make a difference by using natives in your landscape.

But where do you find these native plants and learn which ones have the best chance of succeeding in your local climate? Why, at the **Native Plant Society of Texas Fall Symposium**, of course!

**Symposium 2011** will kick off Texas Native Plant Week in grand style by gathering together experts and gardeners from across the state, offering speakers, field trips, educational exhibits, workshops, and a native plant sale. This is the largest event hosted by the Native Plant Society of Texas and it promises to be a unique environmental educational experience. The symposium will be held in Houston, Texas, on October 13th-16th at the Omni Houston Hotel at Westside located at 13210 Katy Freeway and Eldridge Parkway. Hotel Registration is available now on the Accommodations page.

Our educational theme for Symposium 2011 will be

> ***"Habitat CPR: Creating, Preserving, and Restoring Native Habitats in a Changing World" featuring the Coastal Prairies and Marshes of Texas***

Symposium 2011 is open to anyone interested in the role that native habitats play in our daily lives and offers a tremendous opportunity to learn how to restore and preserve our state's rich and diverse native plant communities. Please read our Welcome message for more details, then check out the other links on the left side of this page. See you in Houston!

On-line Registration for Symposium 2011 is now available. Check back often for more information and updates to be posted on this website.

Symposium 2011 | Houston

- Home
- Welcome
- Accommodations
- Call for papers
- Exhibits & vendors
- Field trips
- Flower arrangement contest
- Photography contest
- Pricing
- Schedule
- Registration
- Saturday break-out sessions
- Silent auction
- Speakers
- Sponsorships
- Student & educator scholarships
- Contact us

**To contact us:**

- Email: symposium@npsot.org
- Phone: (830) 997-9272
- Mail: N.P.S.O.T.
  P.O. Box 3017
  Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

**31st Annual Native Plant Society Of Texas Fall Symposium**
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> ***"Habitat CPR: Creating, Preserving, and Restoring Native Habitats in a Changing World" featuring the Coastal Prairies and Marshes of Texas***

Not so long ago in a land not very far away, red wolves hunted on prairies ablaze with coastal gay-feather and thousands of whooping cranes returned to winter on the Gulf Coast. Choruses of Houston toads resonated through the humid summer nights and the sound of red-cockaded woodpeckers hunting for insects echoed throughout the longleaf pine forest. The booming ground of the Attwater's greater prairie-chicken was filled with males trying to attract a mate. The high-pitched chirps of swallow-tailed kites alerted the smallest of the marsh residents to take cover or risk becoming dinner.

Today, more than 4 million people inhabit these areas, pushing these animals and their habitats to the edge of extinction. While it may be more fashionable to campaign to 'save the whooping cranes', the truth is that if we do not 'save the whooping crane habitat', they will have no place to bring their fledgling young for the winter. Although the survival of some species may appear to be more important than others, make no mistake, each species plays a vital role in the intricate web of life and its removal can have a cascading effect on its habitat. From the flower that supplies pollen for the bee that makes our honey to the grass that feeds the cow that gives us milk, we are all part of a complicated, but well-balanced eco-system.

But aren't we too late to repair the damage? No! What can I do? Learn habitat CPR!

Symposium 2011 will explore the various components of the Texas coastal prairies and Marshes and their significance as important eco-habitats. Gardeners will learn how to introduce these habitats and their native plants into the urban landscape as a way to supplement the natural environment, attract wildlife, and maintain a sustainable landscape. In a world of stresses such as climate change, urban sprawl, invasive plants, and general habitat destruction, Symposium 2011 will provide knowledge on how to re-establish prairie and marsh habitats where they have been compromised.

Symposium 2011 is open to anyone interested in the role that native habitats play in our daily lives and offers a tremendous opportunity to learn how to restore and preserve our state's rich and diverse native plant communities. In an effort to attract more students and educators, we will offer scholarships to qualified applicants. Please contact us at symposium@npsot.org or (830) 997-9272 for more information.

Volunteers wishing to assist with Symposium 2011 are always welcome! Please contact us at symposium@npsot.org or (830) 997-9272.

Special events at Symposium 2011 will include a photo contest for images of native plants and plant habitats, a dried native plant arrangement competition, a silent auction to raise money for scholarships, and exhibitors sharing native plant and conservation information. Check out the links on the left side of this page for more information.

Speakers at Symposium 2011 will include:

- Jaime Gonzalez (Community Education Manager, Katy Prairie Conservancy) will speak on Pocket Prairies and the use of native prairie plants in the urban landscape.
- Mark Kramer (Stewardship Coordinator, Armand Bayou Nature Center) will tell the compelling story of the preservation of the land surrounding Middle Bayou and its transformation into a nature center.
- Dr. Fred Smeins (Range Ecology Professor, Texas A&M University; leading expert on Texas Coastal Prairies and Marshes) will provide an Overview of Ecology of a Coastal Prairie.
- Dr. John Jacob (Professor and Extension Specialist; Director, Texas Coastal Watershed Program; co-author of "Texas Coastal Wetlands Guidebook") will provide an Overview of Ecology of Coastal Marshes.
- Bill Neiman (Founder and President, Native American Seed) will discuss his ground-breaking work in commercial seed collection of prairie plants and his involvement in native prairie restoration projects.

Friday field trip locations will include:

- Katy Prairie Conservancy lands
- Brazoria County sites
- Nash Prairie in Brazoria County
- Dance Bayou Unit of Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge
- Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge
- Colorado County Prairie Corridor
- Armand Bayou Nature Center

Authors are invited to submit research papers, general papers on topics of interest, and "How to" articles related to "Habitat CPR". Our diverse audience will include students, educators, professionals, conservationists, and gardeners who are interested in the research, conservation, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas. Please read our Call for papers for more information.

Symposium 2011 | Houston

- Home
- Welcome
- Accommodations
- Call for papers
- Exhibits & vendors
- Field trips
- Flower arrangement contest
- Photography contest
- Pricing
- Schedule
- Registration
- Saturday break-out sessions
- Silent auction
- Speakers
- Sponsorships
- Student & educator scholarships
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# Accommodations

The Omni Houston Hotel at Westside will be the host hotel for the 31st Annual Native Plant Society of Texas Fall Symposium on October 13-16, 2011. The hotel is located at 13210 Katy Freeway and Eldridge Parkway. Symposium attendees are being offered a special rate of $89.00 per night for a Deluxe room, but October is a busy time in Houston and the hotel may sell out. To reserve your room at the discounted Symposium 2011 rate, please call Omni Reservations at 1-800-THE-OMNI and identify yourself as an attendee of the Fall Symposium or go to http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/HoustonWestside/MeetingFacilities/NPSOT10.aspx

Special room rates are exclusive of appropriate state and local taxes, fees and assessments, currently 17%. Group rates will be offered three (3) days prior and three (3) days after the meeting dates, subject to availability of rooms at the time of reservation. All attendees will be responsible for their own room, tax and incidental charges. No-shows will be billed a charge of one night's room and tax, posted to the attendee's credit card on file.

Free parking is available in the hotel parking garage. If you need special help with your luggage or parking, please contact the Symposium 2011 planning committee at symposium@npsot.org or (830) 997-9272.

Attendees are encouraged to join the OMNI SELECT GUEST loyalty program. There is no charge for joining. You may enroll when making your room reservation or by going to http://www.omniselectguest.com.

Attendees who join the industry-leading loyalty program will receive the following benefits:

| Omni Select Guest Gold Level Benefits | |
|---|---|
| Complimentary Wi-Fi Service | |
| Complimentary Morning Beverage Delivery | |
| Complimentary Pressing | 2 Items |
| Choice Of Free Nights Or Airline Miles | |
| Complimentary Bottled Water | Night Of Arrival |
| Eco-Friendly Housekeeping Options | |
| Complimentary Shoe Shine | |
| Exclusive Member-Only Offers | |
| Express Check-In And Check-Out | |
| Complimentary Newspaper Of Your Choice Daily | |
| Customized Room Preferences | |
| Evening Housekeeping Service, Including Turndown | |

# RV Accommodations

For those who prefer, Traders Village Houston RV Park is conveniently located just 9 miles (approx. 20 minutes) north on Eldridge from the hotel. All pads are concrete and level, big rig friendly, modern laundry, recreation hall, ATM, pool, Church Service, propane, restrooms & showers, and one of the best rated parks in the area. Also adjacent to Traders Village weekend Flea Market with festivals and special events.

Attendees who wish to stay at Traders Village are encouraged to make their reservations before Thursday, September 1, 2011 for best availability. Accommodation types and rates are posted on their website.


**Traders Village Houston RV Park**
7979 N. Eldridge Rd., Houston, Texas 77041
Phone: (281) 890-5500 — Fax: (281) 890-6568
houstonrv@tradersvillage.com
http://tradersvillage.com/houston/rv-park
GPS: 29.89114, -95.60641



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# Call for papers

> *Habitat CPR: Creating, Preserving, and Restoring Native Habitats in a Changing World, Featuring the Coastal Prairies and Marshes of Texas."*

Authors are invited to submit research papers, general papers on topics of interest, and "How to" articles related to the Symposium 2011 educational theme The dual purpose theme will explore the various components of the Texas Coastal Prairies and Marshes and their significance as an important eco-habitat. In a changing world where stresses such as climate change, urban sprawl, invasive plants, and general habitat destruction threaten the sustainability of this eco-region, we will also examine philosophies and methods for the continued preservation and restoration of prairies and marshes. Symposium 2011 will provide knowledge on how to re-create prairie and marsh habitats where they have been previously removed. Gardeners will learn how to migrate the use of these habitats and their native plants into the urban landscape as a way to supplement the natural environment, attract wildlife, and maintain a sustainable landscape.. Our diverse audience will include academics, professionals, conservationists, educators, and gardeners who are interested in the "research, conservation and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas."

Notification of your intent to submit a paper should be emailed to symposium@npsot.org no later than May 31, 2011. Please include the following information: paper's title, a brief description (150 words or less); author's name, brief biography, and contact information. The Symposium Education Committee will review all proposals and notify authors by June 1st of your status along with instructions for submission of your final paper. Final papers accepted for inclusion in the Symposium 2011 Proceedings will be due no later than August 1, 2011. Selected papers may also be chosen for oral presentation.

For questions, please contact Lonnie Childs, Symposium 2011 Co-Chair, at symposium@npsot.org, or you may contact the State Office directly at state@npsot.org or by calling (830) 997-9272.

Native Plant Society of Texas NPSOT Symposium 2011 • Houston

Symposium 2011 | Houston

- Home
- Welcome
- Accommodations
- Call for papers
- Exhibits & vendors
- Field trips
- Flower arrangement contest
- Photography contest
- Pricing
- Schedule
- Registration
- Saturday break-out sessions
- Silent auction
- Speakers
- Sponsorships
- Student & educator scholarships
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**Exhibitor, vendor and sponsor booth information**

The Native Plant Society of Texas invites all interested Organizations, Exhibitors, Vendors, and Sponsors to submit an application form as soon as possible to secure your exhibit or vendor space for Symposium 2011 to be held in Houston on October 13-16 at the Omni Houston Hotel at Westside located at 13210 Katy Freeway and Eldridge Parkway.

**Thursday, October 13 – 12:00 noon – Exhibit setup begins**

**Friday, October 14 – 7:00am-7:00pm – Exhibits Area open to visitors**

**Saturday, October 15 – 7:00am-6:00pm – Exhibits Area open to visitors**

**Please clear the Exhibits Area by 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 16.**

**Pricing information** for exhibit and vendor space is as follows:

- Unstaffed Educational Display: No fee One (1) 6-ft. skirted table will be provided.
- Staffed Educational Exhibit (no sales): $100 6 ft. x 6 ft. space with one skirted table and a chair.
- Vendor: $150 6 ft. x 6 ft. space with one skirted table and a chair.
- Sponsors will be provided space according to their sponsorship level.

Notes:

1. For Staffed Educational Exhibits, Vendors, and Sponsors ONLY, registration fee includes morning and noon meals for one (1) person on Friday and Saturday.
2. Please indicate electrical or other special requirements on the application form.
3. Additional space is available. Please contact us for pricing.

**The deadline for applications is September 15, 2011.**

Mail applications to:

Native Plant Society of Texas
Attn: Symposium 2011 Exhibits Committee
PO Box 3017
320 W. San Antonio St.
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624-1929

Symposium 2011 | Houston

- Home
- Welcome
- Accommodations
- Call for papers
- Exhibits & vendors
- Field trips
- Flower arrangement contest
- Photography contest
- Pricing
- Schedule
- Registration
- Saturday break-out sessions
- Silent auction
- Speakers
- Sponsorships
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# Field trips

**THURSDAY FIELD TRIPS (2)**

**#T1 Site: Warren Ranch Preserve – Katy Prairie Conservancy Lands**

**Date:** Thursday, October 13

**Description:** Warren Ranch is the largest remaining cattle ranch in Harris County. At nearly 6,500 acres, this sprawling preserve is home to several plant communities including coastal prairie remnants, oak mottes, riparian forest, farmland, and saline barrens – geologically fascinating areas that are home to an odd assortment of plants typically found on the coast, in west Texas, or even the barrens of the great north. Mid-October is a great time to explore Warren Ranch and field trip attendees are likely to be treated to fall-blooming tall-grasses and wildflowers as well as wetland plants if sufficient rains fall. In addition, participants will also have a wonderful opportunity to spot the many animals that call the ranch home including migratory birds that flock to our area at this time of the year.

**Website:** http://www.katyprairie.org

**Distance:** 30miles (45 min.) from hotel

**Leader:** Wes Newman, Jaime Gonzalez

**Start time/Duration:** 2:00pm (2 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 30

**Transport Mode:** Member Auto

**#T2 Site: Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary (self-guided)**

**Date:** Thursday, October 13

**Description:** The Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary in West Houston is a 17.5 acre wooded sanctuary along Rummel Creek with a restored log cabin that is owned and managed by Houston Audubon as an urban wildlife sanctuary. In 1932, Edith Moore and her husband Jesse hand-constructed a log cabin on the banks of Rummel Creek using trees they harvested from the surrounding forest. In 1975, to ensure future generations would walk through her woods and learn about nature, Edith Moore willed 17-acres of land and her log cabin to Houston Audubon, on the condition it be maintained as a perpetual sanctuary. Rummel Creek runs through the sanctuary that is a popular birding destination.

**Website:**
www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/883/MenuGroup/Sanctuaries2.htm

**Distance:** 7 miles (15 min.) from hotel

**Leader:** Self-guided

**Start-time/Duration:** Sanctuary is open from 7am to 7pm.

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy. Has some handicap accessibility on limited boardwalk system.

**Transport Mode:** Member auto

**FRIDAY FIELD TRIPS (8)**

**#F2 Site: Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary (guided)**

**Date:** Friday, October 14

**Description:** The Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary in West Houston is a 17.5 acre wooded sanctuary along Rummel Creek with a restored log cabin that is owned and managed by Houston Audubon as an urban wildlife sanctuary. In 1932, Edith Moore and her husband Jesse hand-constructed a log cabin on the banks of Rummel Creek using trees they harvested from the surrounding forest. In 1975, to ensure future generations would walk through her woods and learn about nature, Edith Moore willed 17-acres of land and her log cabin to Houston Audubon, on the condition it be maintained as a perpetual sanctuary. Rummel Creek runs through the sanctuary that is a popular birding destination.

**Website:**
www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/883/MenuGroup/Sanctuaries2.htm

**Distance:** 7 miles (15 min.) from hotel

**Leader:** Don Gray, Lead Naturalist for the Audubon Docent Guild

**Start-time/Duration:** 1pm. (1-1.5 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy. Has some handicap accessibility on limited boardwalk system.

**Max # Attendees:** 24

**Transport Mode:** Member caravan

**Note:** This can also be a self-guided field trip for Thursday or Sunday.

**#F3 Site: Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge**

**Date:** Friday, October 14

**Description:** Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), located approximately 60 miles west of Houston, Texas, is one of the largest remnants of coastal prairie habitat remaining in southeast Texas and home to one of the last populations of the critically endangered Attwater prairie- chicken, a ground-dwelling grouse of the coastal prairie ecosystem. Formerly occupying some 6 million acres of coastal prairie habitat, the Attwater prairie-chicken was once one of the most abundant resident birds of the Texas and Louisiana tall grass prairie ecosystem. Presently, less than 200,000 fragmented acres of coastal prairie habitat remain, leaving the birds scattered among three Texas counties. The refuge is one of a handful of national wildlife refuges managed specifically for an endangered species. However, recovery activities for this imperiled bird and management of it's declining ecosystem go beyond the refuge's boundaries. Much of the refuge consists of virgin prairie, never plowed or converted to croplands. However, you'll find formerly cultivated fields on their way to becoming prairie too. The refuge staff first harvests native grass seeds from the virgin prairie in the fall, then distributes them in the old fields. Returning that field to a prairie takes years, but slowly the dedicated effort is paying off.

**Website:** http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/attwater

Symposium 2011 | Houston

- Home
- Welcome
- Accommodations
- Call for papers
- Exhibits & vendors
- Field trips
- Flower arrangement contest
- Photography contest
- Pricing
- Schedule
- Registration
- Saturday break-out sessions
- Silent auction
- Speakers
- Sponsorships
- Student & educator scholarships
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**Distance:** 46 miles (1 hr.) from hotel

**Leader:** TBD

**Start Time/Duration:** 1:00pm (2 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 25

**Transport Mode:** Bus

**#F4 Site: Columbia Bottomlands Units of the San Bernard NWR**

**Date:** Friday, October 14

**Description:** Columbia Bottomlands hardwoods feature old growth forest and associated wetlands containing unique and endemic arboreal species such as Nuttall's Oak, Cherrybark Oak, Bur Oak, Durand's Oak, and Corkwood among others. This site offers a preview of pristine bottomland habitat. Boots and insect repellant are recommended when entering these forested wetlands.

**Website:**
http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/texasmidcoast/sanbernard.htm

**Distance:** 70 miles (1 hr. 15 min.) from hotel

**Leader:** Tom Adams

**Start time/Duration:** 1:30pm, (2 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate

**Max. # attendees:** 25

**Transport Mode:** Mini-Bus

**Note: Attendees should wear footwear that can get wet and bring insect repellant.**

**#F5 Site: Brazoria Palms of San Bernard NWR**

**Date:** Friday, October 14

**Description:** This population of naturally occurring uniquely trunked ***Sabal* Palmettos** are currently of un-substantiated taxonomic origin and stand in a mesic bottomland forest sanctuary in southwestern Brazoria County, Texas. The Brazoria Palmettos in this tract of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge range in height up to 27 feet. The tallest has been estimated to be about 150 years old. Genetic tests are in progress to determine the lineage of these reproducing native palms found nowhere in the wild outside of Texas. Access is through dense flats of dwarf palmetto and poison ivy in the understory. Boots and insect repellant are also recommended.

**Website:**
http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/texasmidcoast/sanbernard.htm

**Distance:** 80 miles (1 hr. 30 min.) from hotel

**Leader:** Warren Pruess, Sandy Elsik

**Start-time/Duration:** 1:30pm, (1.5 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate (no trails)

**Max. # Attendees:** 25

**Transport Mode:** Vans

**Note: Attendees should wear footwear that can get wet and bring insect repellant.**

**#F6 Site: Armand Bayou Nature Center**

**Date:** Friday, October 14

**Description:** Armand Bayou Nature Center is a 2,500-acre preserve in the center of a highly urbanized area between NASA/Johnson Space Center and the Bayport Industrial District. ABNC protects remnants of this region's original ecosystems including wetlands, bottomland forest, and tall grass prairies. This environmentally significant area has been designated as one of only four Texas State Coastal Preserves and is one of the last bayous in the Houston area that is not channeled. In addition, ABNC is the recipient of the Lone Star Land Steward Award sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department recognizing excellence in wildlife habitat management and conservation on private lands

**Website:** http://www.abnc.org/

**Distance:** 48 miles (60 min.) from hotel

**Leader:** Mark Kramer, Stewardship Coordinator, ABNC

**Start time/Duration:** 1pm (2 hrs)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 24

**Transport Mode:** Bus

**Note: Attendees should wear footwear that can get wet.**

**#F7 Site: Willow WaterHole Greenway (Harris County)**

**Date:** Friday, October 14

**Description:** This site is a 60 acre park in southwest Houston where Harris County Flood Control District Environmental Services Div. has used native plant re-vegetation as part of their flood mitigation system. While still under construction, this site is an excellent example of a governmental entity re-creating native plant habitats to control storm-water run-off. Carolyn White will be presenting on this topic at a Saturday break-out session.

**Distance:** 30 miles (35-60 min.) from hotel dependent on traffic

**Leader:** Carolyn White & Peter Loos

**Start time/Duration:** 1pm (1.5 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 24

**Transport Mode:** Member Caravan

**#F8 Site: Russ Pittman Park (City of Bellaire)**

**Date:** Friday, October 14

**Description:** Russ Pitman Park is an urban oasis smack in the middle of the city of Bellaire with four acres of heavily wooded grounds, which make it a haven for birds and other animals. Originally a large estate owned by one family, its manor, the beautiful 1920's-vintage Henshaw House, still stands as the park's community outreach center, the Hana and Arthur Ginzbarg Nature Discovery Center. The park includes an excellent example of a pocket prairie created with specimens and seeds collected from local coastal prairie locations and thus demonstrates the value of using prairie plants in a wildscapes garden setting. The pocket prairie was created and is maintained by volunteers.

**Distance:** 19 miles (30 min.) from hotel

**Leader:** Donald Verser, Pocket Prairie Docent

**Start time/Duration:** 1pm (1.5-2 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 24

**Transport Mode:** Member Caravan

**#F9 Site: Wildlife Habitat Federation Prairie Corridor (Colorado County)**

**Date:** Friday, October 14

**Description:** The Wildlife Habitat Federation (WHF) is a federation of private land-owners who own and synergistically manage a 7-mile corridor of prairie habitat running from the WW Ranch to the northern gate of Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR. The Wildlife Habitat Federation (WHF) was formed in 2004 to bring together the best specialists and techniques for restoring and preserving wildlife in South Central Texas. WHF's aim is to provide individuals and wildlife associations or cooperatives with the right facts on how, when and where to plan and implement wildlife habitat restoration programs. WHF's specific objectives are 1) to restore and enhance contiguous tracts and corridors of native habitat in the Lower Colorado River Basin and adjacent areas; and 2) to provide educational opportunities to assist landowners in optimizing productive use of their resources while significantly enhancing habitat. WHF uses a combination of activities for restoring native grasses on the ranches. They are also assisting landowners representing some 12,000 acres in other areas though Habitat Action Team (HAT) strike forces. HATs provide on-ground equipment and technical assistance.

**Website:** http://whf-texas.org/

**Distance:** Approx. 50 miles (1 hr.) from hotel

**Leader:** Kathy Burris

**Start time/Duration:** 1pm (2 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate

**Max # Attendees:** 45

**Transport Mode:** Bus

**SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS (7)**

**#S10 Site: Nash Prairie in Brazoria County**

**Date:** Sunday, October 16

**Description:** Nash Prairie is over 300 acres of very special coastal tall grass prairie acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Texas in January, 2011. This prairie is a rare remnant of the coastal prairie that once covered over six million acres of Texas and Louisiana. In the fall of 2003, Dr. David Rosen, botanist and plant taxonomist with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service began his survey of the Nash Prairie. The Nash Prairie is a 300 acre remnant Coastal Tall Grass Prairie that is managed as a native hay meadow for the ranch. The topography of the Nash Prairie is intact. Most noticeable are the many pimple mounds, indicating that the Nash hay meadow has probably never been grazed or plowed. David's survey of the vascular flora of the Nash Prairie has resulted in a checklist of almost 300 native species of plants and the list is growing.

**Website:** http://www.stmaryswestcolumbia.org/index_files/Page551.html

**Distance:** 70 miles (1 hr. 20 min.) from hotel

**Leader:** Susan Conaty, Dr. David Rosen

**Start time/Duration:** 10am (1.5 hrs)

**Level of Difficulty**: Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 40

**Transport Mode:** Member Auto

**#S11 Site: Mowotony Prairie**

**Date:** Sunday, October 16

**Description:** Mowotony Prairie is a coastal prairie remnant, located just south of Brazos Bend State Park, was acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Texas in January, 2011. This 79 acre remnant hayfield is a window into our past. Recognized by botanists and environmentalists as one-of-a-kind and irreplaceable, Mowotony is brimming with rare, endemic native wildflowers, grasses and sedges that support a suite of birds, amphibians, insects, reptiles, and mammals. It is adjacent to the Columbia Bottomlands, and serves as a model for prairie restorationists.

**Distance:** 70 miles (1 hr. 20 min.)

**Leader:** TBD

**Start time/Duration:** 10am (1.5 hrs)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 40

**Transport Mode:** Member Auto

**#S12 Site: Fleming Prairies – Sam Houston National Forest**

**Date:** Sunday, October 16

**Description:** Fleming Prairies are a globally rare prairie type restricted to very western Louisiana and southeast Texas. These calcareous prairies follow a narrow band of geology called the Fleming Formation (see Map 1.), which starts west of Huntsville, Texas and follows an arc just south of Livingston and through Jasper to just below Toledo Bend Reservoir near Burkeville, Texas on the Texas and Louisiana state line. The soils are deep

clays and these prairies are often on high uplands and the heads of creeks – often dissected by naturally eroded gullies and calcareous ('calciphile') hardwood forests. The flora of these calcareous clay soil prairies are generally strongly differentiated from that of almost all of the mostly sandy acidic soil communities of southeast Texas. Very few Texans have encountered this rare prairie type due to limited access as most sites are located on timber company lands. Fleming Prairie site is a great place to see prairie species such as Texas gramma, side oats gramma, compact prairie clover), purple prairie clover, purple coneflower, fox glove, prairie gentian, Maximilian sunflower marbleseed, false guara, Indian plantain, blazing star, and the Missouri coneflower – all atypical plant species of the Pineywoods.

**Distance:** 70 miles (1.5 hrs.) from hotel

**Leader:** Peter Loos

**Start Time/Duration:** 10:00am (2 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 30

**Transport Mode:** Member auto

**#S13 Site: Peckerwood Gardens**

**Date:** Sunday, October 16

**Description:** Peckerwood Garden is an outstanding repository of rare and unusual plants from the United States, Mexico, and Asia; and exhibits a unique collection of folk art from Mexico. Balancing artistic expression and scientific discovery, it fosters educational and scientific programs, and encourages greater knowledge and appreciation of horticulture. The Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation was established to preserve existing collections; support continued plant explorations and trials; and develop, maintain and preserve the land and facilities of Peckerwood Garden. There are many ways to describe Peckerwood Garden: it is a collection of more than 3,000 plants including many rarities; it is a conservation garden containing examples of numerous threatened species, many of which are no longer found in the wild; it is a laboratory garden testing a wide range of "new" plants and Mexican discoveries.

**Website:** www.peckerwoodgarden.org

**Distance:** 43 miles (55 min) from hotel

**Leader:** TBD

**Start time/Duration:** 1pm or 3pm (1.5 hrs)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Transport Mode:** Member auto

**Note: $10 fee per person required. October 16 is an "Open Day" with regular tour scheduled for 1pm and 3pm. No reservation is required.**

**Site #S14: Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center**
**Date:** Sunday, October 16
**Description:** Only 18 miles from downtown Houston, a 400-acre coastal prairie, including 20 "prairie pothole" ponds, is being restored to demonstrate what was once the predominate landscape in this area. Texas Coastal Watershed Program staff and volunteers collect, propagate, and plant more than 30 species of native wetland plants appropriate to the site. Concurrently, prairie restoration is being done by the Texas Master Naturalists. Attendees can also walk a 1 mile wooded trail through a series of former fish hatchery ponds, and see varying environments from American lotus-bedecked ponds to emerging forest. A new 65' accessible observation tower provides an overview of the prairie, woodlands, and Sheldon Lake reservoir, with downtown Houston visible on the horizon.
**Website – Park site** : http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/sheldon_lake/
**Wetland restoration site:** http://wetlandteam.ning.com/
**Distance** : 30 miles (45 min.) from hotel
**Leader:** Kelly Norrid or Diana Foss, TPWD

**Start-time/Duration:** 10am (2 hrs.)
**Level of Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate. The coastal prairie currently has no trails. There is an unpaved road which participants may walk, but the most direct route to the ponds is through the prairie. Sturdy shoes are recommended. The 1 mile wooded trail through the old hatchery ponds is rated Easy.

**Max # Attendees:** 20

**Transport Mode:** Member auto

**Site #S15: Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens – Endangered Species Garden**
**Date:** Sunday, October 16
**Description:** In 1974 Thelma and Charles sold Harris Count Precinct 4 their 14-acre homestead and gardens along Cypress Creek. Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens has grown to ~325 acres of east Texas piney woods and showcases the region's largest collection of native and cultivated plants. In keeping with Thelma and Charles' work to preserve native plant species, Mercer is one of 36 participating botanical institutions that comprise the national Center for Plant Conservation (CPC http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/ ). Several of the 24 rare native species that Mercer maintains for the CPC are displayed in Mercer's Endangered Species Garden. Interpretive signage identify common Texas natives used to complement the rare native species on display. The Endangered Species Garden is certified by the North American Butterfly Association and as a Best of Backyard Habitat Demonstration Garden by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the National Wildlife Federation. The Endangered Species Garden demonstrates the use of permanent water and food sources, composting and organic management methods for the benefit of wildlife. Prior to the tour, attendees are invited to meet in Mercer's Visitor Center and attend an informative presentation about the rare native plants that Mercer maintains for the CPC.
**Website:** http://www.hcp4.net/mercer/
**Distance** : 32 miles (40 min.) from hotel

**Leader:** Anita Tiller, Mercer Botanist
**Start-time/Duration:** 10am (2 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 40
**Transport Mode:** Member auto

**Site #S16: Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center & Peckinpaugh Preserve**
**Date:** Sunday, October 16
**Description:** Peckinpaugh Preserve is a 25 acre bottomland hardwood area which has a thick understory containing a number of trees and plants similar to the east Texas Big Thicket. Therefore this area is often called "The Little Thicket", as it is the western-most edge where the vegetation of the Big Thicket survives. The Preserve borders Spring Creek and provides habitat for a variety of native terrestrial and non-terrestrial species as well as stop-over habitat for migrating waterfowl. The tract has a high diversity of native tree species including Black Gum, Hercules Club, and a notable Magnolia specimen.
**Website:** http://www.springcreekgreenway.org/naturecenter.htm.

**Distance** : 36 miles (45 min.)

**Leader:** Teri MacArthur, Manager of Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center
**Start-time/Duration:** 10am (1.5-2 hrs.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 30
**Transport Mode:** Member auto

**#S2 Site: Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary (self-guided)**

**Date:** Sunday, October 16

**Description:** The Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary in West Houston is a 17.5 acre wooded sanctuary along Rummel Creek with a restored log cabin that is owned and managed by Houston Audubon as an urban wildlife sanctuary. In 1932, Edith Moore and her husband Jesse hand-constructed a log cabin on the banks of Rummel Creek using trees they harvested from the surrounding forest. In 1975, to ensure future generations would walk through her woods and learn about nature, Edith Moore willed 17-acres of land and her log cabin to Houston Audubon, on the condition it be maintained as a perpetual sanctuary. Rummel Creek runs through the sanctuary that is a popular birding destination.

**Website:**
www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/883/MenuGroup/Sanctuaries2.htm

**Distance:** 7 miles (15 min.) from hotel

**Leader:** Self-guided

**Start-time/Duration:** Sanctuary is open from 7am to 7pm.

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy. Has some handicap accessibility on limited boardwalk system.

**Transport Mode:** Member auto

**THURSDAY, FRIDAY, OR SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS (self-guided)**

**#TFS17 Constructed Demonstration Meadow at Houston Arboretum and Nature Center (self-guided)**

**Date:** Friday, October 14

**Description:** The Houston Arboretum & Nature Center (HANC) is a 155-acre non-profit urban nature sanctuary located on the western edge of Memorial Park. It is managed by the HANC Board of Directors and staff under an agreement with the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department. The Meadow at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center is a constructed demonstration grassland habitat surrounded by hundreds of acres of loblolly pine-mixed hardwood forest. In the late 1970's – after a multi-year drought similar to the one we are experiencing now – a stand of pines were killed by pine bark beetles. Since a soil survey of the area suggested that a natural Gulf Coast Prairie once existed here, a 4-acre area was subsequently cleared and excavated to create a demonstration meadow and pond. Plants endemic to area prairies were both seeded and transplanted. Thirty years later and the continued presence of pine-specific soil fungi and the absence of large grazers such as deer and buffalo make it necessary to maintain this constructed meadow by occasional mowing, reseeding and transplanting. Among the prairie plants we have established are sunflowers, liatris, bluestem grasses, asters, coreopsis, gaillardia, and basketflowers. Additionally, visitors can enjoy over 5 miles of nature trails, including forest, pond, wetland and meadow habitats.

**Location:** 4501 Woodway Drive @ Loop 610 west, Houston, TX 77035

**Distance:** 22 miles (25-50 min.)

**Leader:** Self-guided

**Start time/Duration:** 1:30pm (2 hrs) Afterwards, people may visit the rest of HANC on their own.

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # Attendees:** 45

**Transport Mode:** Member caravan

# Flower arrangement contest

Show us your creative talents using the vast array of unusual Texas native plant material from your area in an interesting display or design.

Once again, the Native Plant Society of Texas is encouraging all interested chapters and individuals to participate in a Designing With Texas Natives competition to be held at Symposium 2011. Arrangements will be placed on display for viewing and voting by all Symposium participants. Arrangements may be dried or fresh, but all plant materials used in the design must be native to the State of Texas.

Arrangements may be taken to the registration table at the symposium on the day of your arrival and must arrive by 11am on Saturday, October 15th.

Please fill out the Designing With Texas Natives Information Form and turn it in with your arrangement when you bring it to registration.

Contest Rules:

1. All plant material must be native to the Texas. Please submit a species list with your arrangement. Common names are acceptable.
2. Plant material may be dried or fresh
3. No artificial colorants, dyes, or paints are allowed
4. Container of your choice
5. Size:
   Maximum width/Length—24" X 12"
   Height—unlimited
   No minimum size limits

Winners will be chosen by a popular vote of all Symposium participants. Certificates will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the dinner on Saturday evening, October 15.

All arrangements will remain the property of the designer and must be removed from the banquet hall on Saturday night following the banquet.

For more information, contact the Designing With Natives chairperson Maggie Livings at maggielivings@gmail.com.

Symposium 2011 | Houston

- Home
- Welcome
- Accommodations
- Call for papers
- Exhibits & vendors
- Field trips
- Flower arrangement contest
- Photography contest
- Pricing
- Schedule
- Registration
- Saturday break-out sessions
- Silent auction
- Speakers
- Sponsorships
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**To contact us:**

- Email: symposium@npsot.org
- Phone: (830) 997-9272
- Mail: N.P.S.O.T.
  P.O. Box 3017
  Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

# Photography contest

Society members and attendees of Symposium 2011 are invited to enter a photo contest of images featuring Texas native plants and landscapes. Contest judging will be conducted via a popular vote by symposium attendees at the event.

Entering photographers will be divided into two classifications:

1. Professional – participants who have sold their photographs
2. Amateur – participants that have never sold their photographs

Photo categories that may be entered include:

1. Blooming Plants native to Texas
2. Non-blooming Plants native to Texas
3. Scenic/Landscape featuring plants native to Texas

**Contest Rules:**

1. Photographs entered must be of plants native to Texas.
2. Each photographer may enter a maximum of two mounted prints, either B&W or color, in each category for a total of six photos.
3. Photographs entered in previous contests are not eligible.
4. Mounted prints of your entries must be brought to the photo exhibit area at the Symposium by 11am CDT on Saturday, October 15, 2011.
5. Prints must measure from 5" x 7" to 8" x 10" inches in size.
6. Prints must be mounted on a firm backing such as mat-board or foam-board. Backing should be the same size as print. No framed or glass/acrylic covering is allowed.
7. In addition to the mounted print, a digital copy of the photo in JPG or TIF format must be emailed to photocontest@npsot.org no later than Thursday, October 7, 2011.
8. Winning photographs may be placed on the NPSOT website and published in the NPSOT News. Other entries may also be used similarly. Only the original photographer may enter a photograph.
9. Photographs not meeting all requirements will be disqualified.

Note: All photos entered become the property of Native Plant Society of Texas. By entering their photos, contestants agree that their work may be used for displays, publications and/or educational purposes of Native Plant Society of Texas. Photographers will be credited for their work with each use.

**Awards:**

Award certificates will be given to the first, second and third place winners in each class/category combination. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the symposium dinner held on Saturday evening, October 15th. Winning photographs may also be posted on our website and published in the **NPSOT *News***.

**How to Enter:**

- Submit your digital photo as an email attachment to photocontest@npsot.org no later than Thursday, October 7, 2011. Please include the following information in the body of the email: 1) Photographer's name; 2) Title of each photo; 3) Class and Category into which each photo will entered. Photographs must be in JPG or TIF format.
- Mount your photo print on a firm backing such as mat-board or foam-board for presentation at the symposium exhibits area. Backing should be the same size as print. No framed or glass/acrylic covering is allowed.
- Bring your mounted print(s) to Symposium 2011. Do not mail or ship in your entries prior to the symposium as there is no procedure for handling them. Note that the mounted photos must be taken to the photo exhibits area by 11am CDT on Saturday, October 15th.
- Complete two copies of the Entry Form for each photograph you enter. Attach one copy to the back of your mounted photograph. Bring these to the symposium along with your photo prints.

**Download Entry FormGot questions?**

Email photocontest@npsot.org or symposium@npsot.org; or call the State Office at 830.997.9272.



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**SYMPOSIUM 2011 REGISTRATION PRICING**

**Complete Conference Package:**
(includes all meals, field trips, workshops and proceedings on CD)

- **Member Registration – Early** (up thru Sept 15)/**Late** (after Sept 15) **$175/$195**
- **Non-Member Registration – Early** (up thru Sept 15)/**Late** (after Sept 15) **$200/$220**
- **Student** (please email current unofficial transcripts to studentreg@npsot.org) **$50**
- **Educator** (please go to website, print form and email to state@npsot.org) **$75**

**Single Day Options:**

- **Member Friday Only Registration $65**
  (includes speakers, lunch, field trips and proceedings on CD)
- **Non-Member Friday Only Registration $75**
  (includes speakers, lunch, field trips and proceedings on CD)
- **Member Saturday Only Registration $50**
  (includes speakers, lunch, workshops and proceedings on CD)
- **Non-Member Saturday Only Registration $60**
  (includes speakers, lunch, workshops and proceedings on CD)

**Single Meal Options:**

- **Thursday Night Cocktail Reception $25**
- **Friday Night Awards Banquet $35**
- **Saturday Night Film & Dinner $50**

For complete pricing information and to register on-line, click here.

Symposium 2011 | Houston

- Home
- Welcome
- Accommodations
- Call for papers
- Exhibits & vendors
- Field trips
- Flower arrangement contest
- Photography contest
- Pricing
- Schedule
- Registration
- Saturday break-out sessions
- Silent auction
- Speakers
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# Schedule

As of August 1. Subject to change

| Date & Time | Event |
|---|---|
| **Thursday, Oct 13** | |
| 12:00noon-5:00pm | Exhibits and Vendor Area Set-up |
| | |
| 2:00pm-5:00pm | Field Trips |
| | |
| 5:00pm-8:00pm | Registration & Check-in Open |
| | Deliver Silent Auction items |
| | |
| 6:00pm-8:00pm | Welcome Reception: Hors d'oeuvres, beer & wine |
| | Generously Underwritten by the Dian Graves Owen Foundation |
| | |
| **Friday, Oct 14** | |
| 7:00am-8:00am | Continental Breakfast |
| | |
| 7:00am-12:00noon | Registration and Check-in Open |
| | T-shirt sales open |
| | Deliver Silent Auction items |
| | Photo Contest and Flower Arrangement Contest Open for Delivery of Entries |
| | |
| 7:00am – 7:00pm | Exhibits and Vendor Area Open |
| | |
| 8:00am – 10:45am | Friday Plenary Session |
| | |
| | Armand Bayou Nature Center A Case Study in Coastal Prairie Preservation, Restoration and Management |
| | Mark Kramer, Stewardship Coordinator at Armand Bayou Nature Center |
| | |
| | Prairie Restoration as Barn Building Lessons Learned in Community-based Conservation |
| | Jaime Gonzalez, Community Education Manager, Katy Prairie Conservancy |
| | |
| 10:45am-11:30am | NPSOT State Board Meeting |
| | |
| 11:30am-12:15noon | Lunch |
| | |
| 12:15noon-5:30pm | Field Trips |
| | |
| 5:00pm-7:00pm | Silent Auction Open for bidding |
| | |
| 6:00pm-7:00pm | Social Hour |
| | |
| 7:00pm-9:00pm | Awards Banquet |
| | |
| **Saturday, Oct 15** | |
| 7:00am-8:00am | Continental Breakfast |
| | |
| 7:00am-10:30am | Registration and Check-in Open |
| | Photo Contest and Flower Arrangement Contest Open for Delivery of Entries |
| | |
| 7:00am-6:00pm | Exhibits and Vendor Area open |
| | |
| 7:00am-7:30pm | Silent Auction Open for bidding |
| | |
| 7:00am-11:30am | NPSOT Houston Chapter Plant Sale Open for Viewing Only |
| | |
| 8:00am-11:30am | Saturday Plenary Session |
| | |
| | Overview of Ecology of Texas Coastal Prairies |
| | Dr. Fred Smeins, Professor of Ecology in the Ecosystem Science and Management<br>Department at Texas A&M University. |

Native Plant Society of Texas NPSOT Symposium 2011 • Houston

Symposium 2011 | Houston

- Home
- Welcome
- Accommodations
- Call for papers
- Exhibits & vendors
- Field trips
- Flower arrangement contest
- Photography contest
- Pricing
- Schedule
- Registration
- Saturday break-out sessions
- Silent auction
- Speakers
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| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| | Overview of Ecology of Texas Coastal Wetlands |
| | Dr. John Jacob, Director of the Texas Coastal Watershed Program |
| | |
| | What on Earth are We Doing with Texas? |
| | Bill Neiman, Owner of Native American Seeds |
| | |
| 11:30am-1:30pm | NPSOT Houston Chapter Plant Sale Open for Sales to Symposium Attendees Only. |
| | |
| 11:45am -1:15pm | Lunch |
| | |
| 12:00noon – 1pm | NPSOT Annual Meeting |
| | |
| 1:00pm-1:30pm | NPSOT Chapter Leader's Meeting |
| | |
| 1:30pm-4:30pm | Break-out Sessions |
| | Sponsored by Terry Hershey, Waste Management of Texas, NPSOT Fredericksburg chapter |
| | |
| 1:30pm-5:00pm | Public Exhibits/Children's Educational Activities |
| | NPSOT Houston Chapter Plant Sale Open for Sales to Public |
| | |
| 5:00pm | Photo Contest & Flower Arrangement Contest Voting Closes |
| | |
| 5:00pm-6:00pm | Social Hour |
| | |
| 6:00pm | Exhibits and Vendor Area Closes |
| | |
| 6:00pm-8:30pm | "Rooted in History" Dinner features a special screening of the new PBS film, Wildflowers \| Seeds of History, with introduction and commentary by Matt Turner, film star and author of Remarkable Plants of Texas |
| | Photo & Flower Contest Winners Announced |
| 7:30pm | Silent Auction closes |
| | |
| 8:30pm | Silent Auction Check-out begins after dinner |
| | |
| **Sunday, Oct 16** | |
| 8:00am-9:00am | Silent Auction check-out |
| | |
| 8:00am-12noon | Exhibits and Vendor Area Tear-down |
| | |
| 10:00am | Field Trips Begin |

# Saturday break-out sessions

**1:30 pm – 2:30 pm**

W1 Wildscapes: Habitats Attract A Diversity of Wildlife, but Insects are the Key!
W2 Flood Damage Reduction Projects Support Native Habitats
W3 Partners and Protocols for Plant Conservation: Becoming a Citizen Scientist
W4 The Quiet Beauty of Our Coastal Prairie: Valuable, Vulnerable & Vanishing
W5 Overview of LeaderWeb: Our Chapter Management Tool

**2:30 pm – 3:30 pm**
W6 The Pollinator Game
W7 Moths: Why We Need Them and How to Create Habitats for them Using Native Plants
W8 Rare & Endangered Plants of the Texas Coastal Prairies & Marshes
W9 Functional Assessment of Coastal Marsh Plants at Four Restored Sites in the Galveston Bay System
W10 Membership Management: Principles for Success

**3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**
W11 Sources, Shallows & Serendipities of Water in Your Landscape
W12 Avian Responses to a Changing Coastal Prairie
W13 TXNDD: Tool for Conservation of Rare Populations of Plants
W14 Restoring Estuarine Marsh Habitat with Beneficial Use of Dredged Material At Goose Island State Park
W15 Chapter Management: The Vital Ingredient

**Break-out Session Descriptions and Speaker Bios**

**W1 – Wildscapes: Habitats Attract a Diversity of Wildlife, but Insects Are the Key to Success!**
You've heard the saying "Plant it and they will come!" That's the motto for any Wildscape garden. By carefully selecting the appropriate plants to provide the nectar, seeds, fruit, and larval foods for wildlife, we can create a working habitat. However, the true measures of success for any habitat are the insects in residence! From dragonflies to tiny pollinators, insects serve important roles in the habitat.
***Diana Foss*** *is an Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where she has worked for 18 years. Prior to that, she was the Education Director for the native animal Texas Zoo for 10 years. She has a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Texas A&M University, College Station. She specializes in habitat development projects, often working with landowners, cities, counties, and schools to conserve or enhance existing habitat, as well as to create habitats for student learning. Ms. Foss monitors wildlife populations, including bats, and coordinates the Houston Bat Team, a group of community volunteers dedicated to education about bats and monitoring bat populations in the greater Houston area. She is also a member of the Texas White-nose Syndrome Task Force (bats). In 2002, she was honored with the TPWD Employee Recognition Award for Community Education, and in 2009, she was a member of the Urban Wildlife Program that was awarded the TPWD Employee Recognition Team Award. In 2008, she was awarded the Citizens' Environmental Coalition Synergy Award for Environmental Education.*

**W2 – Flood Damage Reduction Projects Support Native Habitats**
The Texas legislature created the Harris County Flood Control District (the "District") in 1937 to identify and mitigate flooding problems that plagued the populated coastal plain of the Upper Galveston Bay watershed. In practice, the District achieves flood mitigation by siting, designing, and maintaining flood damage reduction and drainage facilities. These facilities mitigate runoff impacts, reduce peak flows, and in some cases enhance the quality of storm-water discharged from developed areas. Storm-water treatment systems implemented by the District include the creation of wetland areas within wet bottom detention basins and riparian channels. The District initiated a program to re-vegetate these facilities using native plant species from local sources. The goals of the District's re-vegetation program include site stability, water quality enhancement, habitat diversity, permit compliance, and reduced maintenance costs. Generally, the District installs plants to create wetlands, riparian corridors, reforestation areas, and coastal prairie habitats. This presentation will provide an overview of the District's re-vegetation program, and present information regarding the installation, monitoring, and maintenance of these habitats.
***Carolyn White*** *is a Project Manager for the Harris County Flood Control District Environmental Services Division. She currently manages projects under the water quality and re-vegetation programs, including wetland planting for water quality enhancement, detention basin layout, ongoing water quality monitoring, and preparation of landscape and planting plans for capital improvement projects. Prior to joining the District, she was an environmental consultant at ENTRIX, Inc. for 11 years. Ms. White holds a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture/Environmental Planning from The University of California – Berkeley and a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Geology from Carleton College, Northfield Minnesota. She is chair of the Restoration Committee of the Coastal Prairie Partnership.*

**W3 – Partners and Protocols for Plant Conservation – Becoming a Citizen Scientist**
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center promotes the sustainable use and conservation of native plants and landscapes. By providing regional workshops and online resources, the Wildflower Center encourages residents in each natural region to collaborate with landscapers, plant nursery managers, educators, academics, and land stewards to create, preserve, and restore the native habitats that define the region. Use of established protocols for monitoring invasive species and reporting endemic species allows native plant enthusiasts to track changes in native habitats over time. Furthermore, participation in established information networks encourages native plant enthusiasts to focus limited resources in the most threatened native habitats. Widespread use of these protocols and information networks transforms local groups of volunteers into regional teams of citizen scientists. This workshop will provide an overview of the citizen science programs offered through the Wildflower Center.
***Minette Marr*** *is a plant conservationist for Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. As a graduate student at Southwest Texas State University, Ms. Marr managed a wetlands restoration nursery near the headwaters of the San Marcos River and surveyed the flora of a natural area along the Lower Colorado River. Loss of floristic diversity at both sites highlighted the need for controlling invasive species and re-introducing endemic species. Her position in the Conservation Department at the Wildflower Center allows Minette to collaborate with land stewards and citizen scientists to increase the sustainable use and conservation of native plants and landscapes.*

**W4 – The Quiet Beauty of Our Coastal Prairie: Valuable, Vulnerable, and Vanishing**
Between the new green of spring and the bright gold of autumn, our grasslands support a wonderful array of native plants and animals that make our coastal prairies rich. Wildflowers attract important insect pollinators. Insects attract birds and other animals. Many of these animals are small and not easily seen. Hundreds of species of colorful butterflies and dragonflies, bees and wasps, ants, grasshoppers, and beetles make their home on the prairie. Tall-grass prairie grasses thrive in the good prairie earth and reach heights of six to nine feet. Fibrous roots go down deep, twelve to twenty-one feet. When we think of grasses, we usually think of them in quantity – like a forest full of trees. But, once we know the forest consists of a variety of trees and we begin to see their individual characteristics, we no longer take them for granted. So it is with grasses, even though there are several hundred species in Texas.
***Carolyn Fannon*** *is a published photographer with a lifelong interest in grasses and insects and who has been photographing Texas Coastal Prairie for the past 15 years. For the last few years, she has photographed areas of The Big Thicket. Carolyn is a member of*

Symposium 2011 | Houston

- Home
- Welcome
- Accommodations
- Call for papers
- Exhibits & vendors
- Field trips
- Flower arrangement contest
- Photography contest
- Pricing
- Schedule
- Registration
- Saturday break-out sessions
- Silent auction
- Speakers
- Sponsorships
- Student & educator scholarships
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*the Native Plant Society of Texas, Native Prairies Association of Texas, and Coastal Prairie Partnership.*

**W5 – An Overview of LeaderWeb: Our Chapter Management Tool**
LeaderWeb is an electronic utility residing on the website that provides various tools for chapter leaders to manage their membership rolls, communicate with their members via email or mailings, and submit chapter financial reports amongst many other capabilities. Additionally, chapter leaders have access through LeaderWeb to much needed reference information such as our by-laws, State Board information, State Board contacts, and other vital information. An overview of the capabilities of this important utility will be provided to chapter leaders which will help improve their efficiency and effectiveness as leaders.
***Pam Middleton*** *is the State Coordinator for the State Office located in Fredericksburg.*

**W6 – The Pollinator Game**
The Pollinator Workshop includes a PowerPoint based game similar to Jeopardy. Participants are divided into 3 or 4 groups. Groups are asked questions in order to discuss and learn about pollinators rather than use a standard lecture style. Afterwards, handouts are given discussing pollinator habitat, building nest boxes, and pollinator friendly plants. We bring a bee box as an example and also have them construct cane tube bundles for cavity nesting bees.
***Shelly Maher*** *lived under East Texas red oaks until she transplanted to South Texas to attend college at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. She graduated with a degree in Horticulture in 2000, and received a Masters of Biology in 2008. Ms. Maher has worked as a research scientist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center in Kingsville since 2002. In her work, she performs greenhouse plantings, field evaluations and seed germination tests on native Texas plant species. The research at the PMC leads to commercial seed releases and technology for restoration and conservation across the United States. Ms. Maher lives in Bishop, Texas, with her husband, Christopher.*

**W7 – Moths, Why We Need Them and How to Create Habitats for Them Using Native Plants**
There are ten times as many moths as butterflies, but because so many moths are either nocturnal or lack bright coloring, they often go unnoticed and unappreciated. Some moths serve as important pollinators, most serve as important food for wildlife, and some are stunningly beautiful insects that bring us joy. Some of the more prominent groups, such as the silk moths, the sphinx moths, the owlet moths, and the micro-moths, will be discussed, and there will be photographs of many moths and their caterpillars. The presentation will include information about different moths' habits, their caterpillars, and their host plants – native plants. The object is for the audience to learn more about moths and to point out another very important reason for growing natives, a reason that many attendees may not have known.
***Katy Emde*** *graduated from USC with a B.A. in Telecommunications and has been a member of the Native Plant Society since the mid-1990's. She is also a member of the Audubon Society and the Outdoor Nature Club – Botany Group. She serves on the Memorial Park Conservancy Conservation Committee and on the Advisory Board of the Bayou Land Conservancy. In addition to being a Master Naturalist with the Gulf Coast chapter, she operates a small native plant nursery, MD Native Plants.*

**W8 – Some Rare and Endemic Plants of the Texas Coastal Plain**
Mr. Singhurst will present some of the rare and/or endemic plants of the Coastal Plain and why they are important to the continued health of this eco-region
***Jason Singhurst*** *received a B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Science from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas. He has conducted field research on vegetation ecology of the West Gulf Coastal Plain for the past 14 years. His expertise includes natural areas inventory, plant community ecology, and plant taxonomy. He has served as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department botanist/ecologist in Texas for the past 13 years. He has extensive field knowledge with rare plant species in eastern and central Texas. He has authored or co-authored over 40 scientific publications and in 2007 co-authored a book on Rare Plants of Texas. He has described two plant species new to science that are endemic (restricted) to Texas. Mr. Singhurst has in-depth experience with vegetation mapping, descriptive vegetation classification, and natural resource surveys on public and private lands. Jason has a strong interest in prairies and prairie fens (prairie wetlands) as he has conducted many botanical surveys of these floristically rich plant communities in Texas, Oklahoma, and southeastern Kansas where he was raised and spends as much time with his family as he can. He has concentrated the past few years on rare and endemic plant surveys of coastal prairies, including defining a few un-described prairie swale plant communities in the Coastal Bend region of Texas.*

**W9 -Functional Assessment of Coastal Marsh Plant Communities at Four Restored Sites in the Galveston Bay System**
Coastal marsh ecosystems anchored by smooth cordgrass (Spartina alterniflora) are extremely productive and provide a number of ecologically critical functions and services. In response to the substantial loss of marsh communities in Galveston Bay over the past 50 years, active restoration of numerous coastal wetland systems has been undertaken. The restoration of Pierce Marsh, in the lower Galveston Bay system (1999-2006), employed four different design techniques: 1) filled levees; 2) grid terraces, 3) sinusoidal terraces; and 4) zigzag terraces. Each restored area was planted with S. alterniflora on approximate 3-ft centers. In 2007-2008, we evaluated the functional success of each restoration design compared to a natural marsh reference site, focusing on S. alterniflora density, biomass and productivity, sediment macronutrients, and diversity of naturally established marsh plants. The reference site functional measures exceeded those of all four restoration designs, particularly in sediment macronutrients and corresponding shoot densities and plant productivity.
***Cindy Howard*** *is a professor of biology and environmental science at UHCL, where she teaches ecology, environmental toxicology courses. She has been studying the coastal marsh ecosystems of Galveston Bay for over 20 years and also leads annual research and natural history study expeditions to the Brazilian Amazon.*
***Jim Dobberstine*** *is a member of the environmental science faculty at Lee College. He is the former Land Conservation Programs Manager for the Galveston Bay Foundation and currently serves as the president of the Texas Association of Environmental Professionals.*

**W10 – Membership Management: Principles for Success**
Nurturing and growing our membership is a desirable and even necessary goal for our organization which can only be accomplished by local chapter leadership. In this session, key principles and techniques for the both the recruitment and retention of members will be presented. The results from a chapter leader self-assessment previously sent out to chapter leaders will be shared to help understand where we are today with best practices in membership management. Time will be allowed after the presentation for an interactive sharing by the audience of ideas that have been successful in various chapters for growing their membership.
***Jane Crone*** *has been the President of the Fredericksburg Chapter on two separate occasions while maintaining her membership for over 10 years. She was a founding member of the Hill Country Master Naturalist Chapter and has continued to hold the Master Naturalist certification through her on-going community service work involving naturalist projects. Ms. Crone is on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center and is a member of the Texas Ornithological Society.*
***Bill Lindemann*** *graduated from the University of Texas with BS and MA degrees in geology and worked for 32 years with Exxon as an Exploration Geologist, working extensively in the Far East. He was twice President of the Native Plant Society of Texas (2001 and 2006) and in 2003 was awarded the Nancy Benedict Memorial Award for an act of Conservation/Public Service in establishing the Fredericksburg Nature Center and the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center organization. Subsequently, in 2006, he was also awarded the Benny J. Simpson Fellows Award for service by a member for the enrichment of the society. He has written a weekly birding column in the Fredericksburg Standard Radio-Post and the Kerrville Daily Times since 1997. He currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center and as President of the Hill Country Land Trust while also serving on the Board of Directors for the Hill Country Historical Foundation. In 2006, the Gillespie County Historical Society awarded him a "Star of Texas" award for his work in creating the Fredericksburg Nature Center and for the preservation of the natural and historical*

*Preservation Nature Center and for the preservation of the natural and historical heritage of the Texas Hill Country. Mr. Lindemann is a frequent speaker in the Hill Country on natural history subjects to schools, garden clubs, professional and service organizations, teaches classes on birding and nature at nature centers and adult education schools, and actively promotes historical and natural preservation in the Texas Hill Country through education, outreach and example.*

**W11 – Sources, Shallows and Serendipities of Water in Your Landscape**
Are you aware of water-conservation serendipities in the landscape resulting from products we've manufactured or naturally occurring materials that have significant impacts on water in our landscapes? Learn how you can become a better water steward by employing low-cost, low-tech practices in your home landscape to capture and retain precious water. Why not use rainwater, ac condensate, grey water, and morning dew for maintenance in your landscapes rather than the unsustainable practice of conventionally treated water? Have you considered easy to build earth-soil sculptures/structures – shallows, dips, basins, and bogs – that help with storm water management while providing slowly percolating water to your flora and fauna?
***Carol Fraser*** *has a doctorate in law and an undergraduate degree in English. She works for Harris County Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) 132 as a designer/manager for water conservation demonstration and their research garden, that is participating as a pilot site for the Sustainable Sites Initiative sponsored by the National Botanical Garden, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the National Association of Landscape Architects. She is a Master Gardener and chair of the speaker's bureau for Harris County Master Gardeners. Ms. Fraser is also a Master Naturalist with the Gulf Coast chapter and a member of the advisory board for the National Gardening Association's web site. She is a frequent speaker in the Houston area on gardening topics and can also be viewed on YouTube presenting educational tutorials related to gardening.*

**W12 – Avian Responses to a Changing Coastal Prairie**
The Coastal Prairie has been greatly modified by Anglos and there are few examples of large blocks of native grasslands greater than 10,000 ha. remaining. Standard 40 km U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Survey routes were used to compare breeding bird density in a former Coastal Prairie (McFaddin) that contained 12% native grasslands to those in a nearby (5 km) large block of actively managed Coastal Prairie (Goliad) that contained 75% native grasslands. Both routes averaged 52 species during annual surveys. The Goliad route averaged more Mottled Duck, N. Bobwhite, White-tailed Hawk, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, Cassin's Sparrow, Dickcissel, and E. Meadowlark which are species better adapted to large grasslands with little brush. The McFaddin route averaged more Inca Dove, Barred Owl, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, E. Bluebird, N. Mockingbird, Lark Sparrow, N. Cardinal and Brown-headed Cowbird which are species better adapted to brush and forest lands. Thirty additional species did not occur at significantly higher numbers on either route.
***Dr. Brent Ortego*** *is a Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He has worked for TPWD since 1982 in a variety of roles mostly associated with nongame and habitat management. He has worked for the last 11 years assisting landowners with Coastal Prairie restoration as part of the Coastal Prairie Conservation Initiative.*

**W13 – The Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD): A Tool for the Conservation of Rare Populations of Plants**
The TXNDD is a clearinghouse for information on rare species maintained by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Currently, the TXNDD tracks over 200 species of plants in Texas. In this talk, I will review how we collect, map, organize, and disseminate data essential for informing conservation decisions. We follow a methodology developed by Natureserve which is used in all 50 states. In many states, there is a powerful relationship between similar programs and native plant societies. We are a valuable resource for members interested in the conservation of rare species in Texas. In this presentation, I will review how members can contribute, and how their observations will impact the conservation of rare plants.
***Cullen Hanks*** *studied Biology at Cornell University and received a master's degree from the University of Texas where he studied biodiversity conservation and wildlife exploitation. He has extensive experience collecting biological data in the field in Texas and Latin America. Currently, he works for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. on the Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD) where he compiles information, and provides training on the use of GPS and GIS when monitoring rare species.*

**W14 – Restoring Estuarine Marsh Habitat with Beneficial Use of Dredged Material at Goose Island State Park**
Goose Island is exposed to wind-driven waves crossing Aransas Bay on the central Texas coast. GIS analyses of historical aerial photographs indicated that approximately 25 acres of emergent marsh habitat were lost due to erosion between 1969 and 2001. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with assistance from federal, state and local partners initiated a habitat restoration project to stabilize the shoreline, protect near-shore sea-grass beds, and restore estuarine emergent marsh. An offshore rock breakwater was constructed to stabilize the island, and earthen levees were constructed on the north side of Goose Island to form containment levees surrounding two marsh restoration cells in 2005. Since then, dredged material from nearby boat channels has been placed into the cells to raise the elevation of the bay bottom in the 25-acre restoration site to support emergent marsh. Volunteers planted Spartina alterniflora from nearby marshes to facilitate natural colonization of the site.
***Kay Jenkins*** *is a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department State Parks Regional Natural Resources Coordinator who has worked as a coastal ecologist on the upper and lower coasts of Texas, and currently works in East Texas. She has a BS and MS in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University and a MS in Environmental Science from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is the past-president and current treasurer of the Friends of Connie Hagar, Inc. in Rockport, a board member of the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration, and president-elect of the Tyler Chapter.*

**W15 – Chapter Management: The Vital Ingredient**
To sustain progress toward achieving their mission, all organizations need good management. Over the years, I have encountered non-profit organizations with no plan, no budget, no history of minutes, and in one public organization, no by-laws. Non-Profit organizations are much harder to manage. For one thing, there is almost always a disconnect between the revenue stream and those receiving services. Another issue is that management of many non-profits came to management through the service organization itself. While they tend to be expert at delivering services, they in all likelihood are not professionally trained administrators. Many never had formal training. This workshop deals with organization, planning and budgeting, and how they meld together to help the organization achieve its mission. It is a highly interactive workshop designed to impart the maximum amount of knowledge in a short period of time.
***Cecil Carter*** *has been a management consultant to colleges and other non-profit organizations working in this sector for the past 12 years. Mr. Carter is a member of 6 different non-profit boards, including the Trinity Forks Chapter. Besides being a member, he has served as chapter publicity chairman and Program Chairman. He served as the chairman of the photography contest at the 2010 Symposium. He is currently the chapter's President Elect. Mr. Carter has delivered over one thousand papers, workshops and seminars on various management subjects. For 20 years, he served on the adjunct faculty of Oklahoma State University's Oklahoma City branch.*

# Silent auction

Symposium 2011 will feature a silent auction to raise money for scholarships. Students and educators are key to our future and all proceeds from the silent auction will go to our Kate Hillhouse Scholarship Fund.

Many of us knew Kate Hillhouse and her devotion to preserving our area native plants. Some of us knew Kate through the Texas Master Naturalist program. Some of us benefitted from her frequent lectures. Donating to the Symposium 2011 silent auction provides us with a way to honor Kate. Whether it is a gift certificate to a favorite restaurant or store, an admired book that you want to pass on to another native plant lover, or perhaps a treasure of your own making, each donation contributes to a very worthwhile cause.

For businesses, the silent auction offers an opportunity to showcase merchandise and services before a diverse audience of more than 200 professionals, conservationists, educators, and gardeners from across Texas. This very special event promises high visibility for your donation and your business.

Want to know more? Click here for a letter describing the exciting activities planned for Symposium 2011. Please fill out a Silent Auction Donor Form for each item to be donated. Instructions are on the form.

Thank you for choosing to support the Native Plant Society of Texas and the native plant habitats of Texas. The conservation and education goals of the Native Plant Society of Texas benefit us all, but we can't do it without the generous support of friends like you. Your support is truly needed – and appreciated – to make this event a success. Please help us continue its good work by being a part of this year's event with a donation.

**Completed Donor Forms are needed by September 9, 2011**, regardless of the date on which donations will be delivered.

**If you are unable to deliver your donated items by October 7, 2011**, please contact us to make special arrangements.

Contact information is on the Silent Auction Donor Form.

The Silent Auction will be open for bidding
Friday, October 14 – 5:00pm-7:00pm
Saturday, October 15 – 7:00am-7:30pm

Check-Out for those purchasing items in the Silent Auction will begin on Saturday, October 15, at 8:30pm at the conclusion of dinner.

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- Accommodations
- Call for papers
- Exhibits & vendors
- Field trips
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# Speakers

**Keynote Speakers:**
**Jaime Gonzalez**
**Mark Kramer**
**Dr. John Jacob**
**Bill Neiman**
**Dr. Fred Smeins**

**Keynote Speakers:**

**Jaime Gonzalez**, Community Education Manager of the Katy Prairie Conservancy, is responsible for developing and implementing an annual schedule of activities and outreach programs to augment public access and awareness of the prairie. Mr. Gonzalez's duties also involve expanding collaborative efforts with other organizations and agencies, including local universities. He earned a Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction – Science Education at the University of Houston-Main Campus (2007); he also received his B.S. Biology (1996) from the University of Houston-Main Campus.

Mr. Gonzalez has been awarded the Elizabeth Hull Abernathy Award (2011) from the Garden Club of America for outstanding contribution to the environmental education of youth and the Army & Sarah Emmott Conservation Award (2009) from the Citizens' Environmental Coalition for his prairie conservation efforts. He is President of the Coastal Prairie Partnership, a grass-roots coalition comprised of local, state, federal, and non-profit institutions, private landowners, individuals, businesses, and educators working to achieve common prairie conservation, restoration, and educational goals. Additionally, he serves as a Steering Committee member for the Texas Children in Nature Coalition.
**Topic: Prairie Restoration as Barn Building**
**Lessons Learned in Community-based Conservation**
Traditional communities have long built (raised) barns as a way of strengthening community bonds while at the same time meeting a very real need – creating new barns. Involving local communities in restoring habitats, including prairies, can have similar benefits. Conducting a systematic, community-based restoration can increase awareness and ownership of habitats, help create educational spinoffs, and help restorationists find non-traditional funding and volunteer resources. This lecture will focus on the successes and challenges of one community-based prairie restoration project (Project Blazing Star) and will engage participants in a discussion on how such projects can be scaled up to meet ever-more-ambitious conservation goals.

**Dr. John Jacob** is the director of the Texas Coastal Watershed Program, and holds a joint appointment with the Texas A&M Sea Grant Program and with Texas Agri-Life Extension Service through the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Science. He has coastal-wide responsibility for inland environmental problems that have a direct impact on the quality of our bays, estuaries, and coastal waters. Preeminent among these issues are the mitigation and abatement of runoff pollution from both rural and urban sources, and the preservation and restoration of valuable natural habitats such as wetlands. His current project, Coastal CHARM (Community Health and Resource Management), focuses on enabling coastal communities in Texas to improve quality of life in cities and towns while preserving and enhancing the natural coastal environment.

Mr. Jacob holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Texas Tech University, and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University, all in soils and natural resources. He is registered as a Professional Geoscientist with the State of Texas and is a Professional Wetland Scientist. Mr. Jacob is a recognized expert on Texas wetlands, having been active in consulting and research aspects of wetlands for more than 20 years, and is coauthor of Texas Sea Grant Resilient Coast series on the built environment and wetlands.
**Topic: An Overview of the Ecology of the Texas Coastal Wetlands**
The Upper Gulf Coast of Texas presents a world-class diversity and quality of wetland habitats that is little appreciated by most that live here. In this presentation, I review the geologic origin and biophysical evolution of this unique landscape. I will also address prospects for the conservation of ecologically intact remnants of this once-vast landscape. Finally, I will review regulatory issues associated with our Gulf Coast pothole wetlands and some recent research that might have some impact in this arena.

**Mark Kramer** is the Stewardship Coordinator at Armand Bayou Nature Center. His job includes all aspects of land management, wildlife management, habitat restoration and environmental education. Mr. Kramer is a Pasadena native and began exploring Armand Bayou in his youth. He currently participates as a Board Member and Steering Committee member of several organizations including the Environmental Institute of Houston, Galveston Bay Estuary Program's Invasive Species Work Group, and the Armand Bayou Watershed Partnership. He enjoys speaking about topics including habitat restoration, the use of prescribed fire and wilderness preservation.
**Topic: Armand Bayou Nature Center**
A Case Study in Coastal Prairie Preservation, Restoration and Management
The Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC) is a 2500 acre urban wilderness preserve located in southeast Harris County. ABNC actively manages 700 acres of coastal tall-grass prairie through an integrated strategy of prescribed burning, mowing, herbicide treatment and monitoring. Additionally, locally rare prairie plants are cultivated in the ABNC native plant nursery and re-introduced into prairie landscapes. These large-scale plantings are accomplished through the collaborative efforts of service learning projects, which are attended by local school groups and community based restoration events. This is one of the few publicly accessible prairie remnants in Harris County, allowing it to serve as a living classroom for students and a place where local residents may enjoy one of the rarest views remaining in Texas, coastal tall-grass prairie.

**Bill Neiman**, along with wife Jan, is the founder and owner of Native American Seed (NAS) of Junction, Texas, which is the principal supplier of native wildflower and grass seeds in Texas. In addition, NAS provides grass seed and consulting services for many prairie-restoration projects being done by national and state agencies as well as private landowners. The Neimans are leaders in the movement to conserve natural resources and to restore and maintain the health of the environment and are dedicated to educating the public about ecologically-sensitive land management. Mr. Neiman is an inspirational and entertaining speaker, who spends most of his precious little free time talking to school classes and adult groups on these topics. Bill and Jan Neiman were honored in 2011 with the Benny J. Simpson Award for special service to the Society.
**Topic: What on Earth Are We Doing with Texas?**
With a tour around the eco-regions of our Lone Star state, Neiman shares a lifetime wealth of experience. Harvesting, planting and long term management of native habitats including the Trans-Pecos, Brush Country, Edwards Plateau, Black-lands, Cross Timbers, Piney Woods, and finally zooming in on the Coastal Prairies. Practical hands-on actions will provide inspiration and encouragement for all who are engaged in sustainable land management. Your ability to take measurable steps at home will lead others by example in building a better future.
Texas, with its historically abundant clean rivers, native woodlands, grass/rangelands and coastal marshes, provided easily exploitable natural resources. Sadly, not much of our huge region remains in big, unbroken parcels. Texas, with strong pro-property rights ethos, is comprised of over 95% private lands. Unfortunately, our great state ranks 50th in its ability to provide open space to its burgeoning citizen population. The early stages of common urban sprawl are often overlooked while large-scale fragmentation of our ecosystems is exponentially increasing.
If anything is going to change this picture in Texas, it must come from the stewardship of individual landowners. What remains of the Texas landscape is nothing short of ecological treasures worthy of celebration.

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**Dr. Fred Smeins** is Professor of Ecology in the Ecosystem Science and Management Department at Texas A&M University. His research and teaching interests center on understanding the structure and dynamics of rangeland (grassland, wetland, shrub-land, and savannah) plant communities as influenced by herbivory, soil, fire and climate. He has conducted research in tall grass and mixed grass prairies, oak savannahs, Chihuahuan desert, longleaf pine savannah, prairie pothole and coastal marshes of North America, and savannah/shrub-land systems of Kenya, Morocco and Venezuela. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Natural Resource Ecology and Management.
**Topic: The Coastal Prairie Landscape**
The Coastal Prairie Eco-region is one of North America's most ecologically diverse landscapes. It was historically a matrix of upland tall grass prairies bisected by riverine bottomland forests, bounded by live oak, post oak, and pine savannahs, inclusions of South Texas shrub-lands and a long sinuous transition of estuaries, bayous and coastal marshes along the Gulf . The long growing season of warm temperate to subtropical climates and diverse soils provide for highly productive ecosystems with great floristic and faunistic diversity. While the general pattern of coastal prairie ecosystem still persists, most of it has been greatly altered, fragmented or destroyed by human activity. In spite of these impacts, many opportunities still exist for preservation of remaining semi-natural patches of these ecosystems, and for re-connection and restoration of areas back to semblances of the original natural character of these systems. To accomplish this requires continued education of the public, private individuals, public officials, and agencies dedicated to this cause and the political persuasion to assist in this effort.

**Break-out Session Speakers:**

**Cecil Carter** has been a management consultant to colleges and other non-profit organizations working in this sector for the past 12 years. Mr. Carter is a member of 6 different non-profit boards, including the Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Besides being a Society member, he has served as chapter publicity chairman and Program Chairman. He served as the chairman of the photography contest at the 2010 Symposium. He is currently the chapter's President Elect. Mr. Carter has delivered over one thousand papers, workshops and seminars on various management subjects. For 20 years, he served on the adjunct faculty of Oklahoma State University's Oklahoma City branch.

**Topic: Management – the Vital Ingredient**
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**Topic: (co-presented with Bill Lindemann) Membership Management: Principles for Success**
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**Jim Dobberstine** is a member of the environmental science faculty at Lee College. He is the former Land Conservation Programs Manager for the Galveston Bay Foundation and currently serves as the president of the Texas Association of Environmental Professionals.
**Topic: (co-presented with Cindy Howard) Functional Assessment of Coastal Marsh Plant Communities at Four Restored Sites in the Galveston Bay System**
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**Katy Emde** graduated from USC with a B.A. in Telecommunications and has been a member of the Native Plant Society since the mid-1990's. She is also a member of the Audubon Society and the Outdoor Nature Club – Botany Group. She serves on the Memorial Park Conservancy Conservation Committee and on the Advisory Board of the Bayou Land Conservancy. In addition to being a Master Naturalist with the Gulf Coast chapter, she operates a small native plant nursery, MD Native Plants.
**Topic: Moths, Why We Need Them and How to Create Habitats for Them Using Native Plants**
There are ten times as many moths as butterflies, but because so many moths are either nocturnal or lack bright coloring, they often go unnoticed and unappreciated. Some moths serve as important pollinators, most serve as important food for wildlife, and some are stunningly beautiful insects that bring us joy. Some of the more prominent groups, such as the silk moths, the sphinx moths, the owlet moths, and the micro-moths, will be discussed, and there will be photographs of many moths and their caterpillars. The presentation will include information about different moths' habits, their caterpillars, and their host plants – native plants. The object is for the audience to learn more about moths and to point out another very important reason for growing natives, a reason that many attendees may not have known.

**Carolyn Fannon** is a published photographer with a lifelong interest in grasses and insects and who has been photographing Texas Coastal Prairie for the past 15 years. For the last few years, she has photographed areas of The Big Thicket. Carolyn is a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Native Prairies Association of Texas, and Coastal Prairie Partnership.
**Topic: The Quiet Beauty of Our Coastal Prairie: Valuable, Vulnerable, and Vanishing**
Between the new green of spring and the bright gold of autumn, our grasslands support a wonderful array of native plants and animals that make our coastal prairies rich. Wildflowers attract important insect pollinators. Insects attract birds and other animals. Many of these animals are small and not easily seen. Hundreds of species of colorful butterflies and dragonflies, bees and wasps, ants, grasshoppers, and beetles make their home on the prairie. Tall-grass prairie grasses thrive in the good prairie earth and reach heights of six to nine feet. Fibrous roots go down deep, twelve to twenty-one feet. When we think of grasses, we usually think of them in quantity – like a forest full of trees. But, once we know the forest consists of a variety of trees and we begin to see their individual characteristics, we no longer take them for granted. So it is with grasses, even though there are several hundred species in Texas.

**Diana Foss** is an Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where she has worked for 18 years. Prior to that, she was the Education Director for the native animal Texas Zoo for 10 years. She has a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Texas A&M University, College Station. She specializes in habitat development projects, often working with landowners, cities, counties, and schools to conserve or enhance existing habitat, as well as to create habitats for student learning. Ms. Foss monitors wildlife populations, including bats, and coordinates the Houston Bat Team, a group of community volunteers dedicated to education about bats and monitoring bat populations in the greater Houston area. She is also a member of the Texas White-nose Syndrome Task Force (bats). In 2002, she was honored with the TPWD Employee Recognition Award for Community Education, and in 2009, she was a member of the Urban Wildlife Program that was awarded the TPWD Employee Recognition Team Award. In 2008, she was awarded the Citizens' Environmental Coalition Synergy Award for Environmental Education.

**Topic: Wildscapes: Habitats Attract a Diversity of Wildlife, but Insects Are the Key to Success!**

You've heard the saying "Plant it and they will come!" That's the motto for any Wildscape garden. By carefully selecting the appropriate plants to provide the nectar, seeds, fruit, and larval foods for wildlife, we can create a working habitat. However, the true measures of success for any habitat are the insects in residence! From dragonflies to tiny pollinators, insects serve important roles in the habitat.

**Carol Fraser** has a doctorate in law and an undergraduate degree in English. She works for Harris County Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) 132 as a designer/manager for water conservation demonstration and their research garden, that is participating as a pilot site for the Sustainable Sites Initiative sponsored by the National Botanical Garden, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the National Association of Landscape Architects. She is a Master Gardener and chair of the speaker's bureau for Harris County Master Gardeners. Ms. Fraser is also a Master Naturalist with the Gulf Coast chapter and a member of the advisory board for the National Gardening Association's web site. She is a frequent speaker in the Houston area on gardening topics and can also be viewed on YouTube presenting educational tutorials related to gardening.

***Topic: Sources, Shallows and Serendipities of Water in Your Landscape***

*Why not use rainwater, ac condensate, grey water, and morning dew for maintenance in your landscapes rather than the unsustainable practice of conventionally treated water? Have you considered easy to build earth-soil sculptures/structures – shallows, dips, basins, and bogs – that help with storm water management while providing slowly percolating water to your flora and fauna?*

*Are you aware of water-conservation serendipities in the landscape resulting from products we've manufactured or naturally occurring materials that have significant impacts on water in our landscapes? Learn how you can become a better water steward by employing low-cost, low-tech practices in your home landscape to capture and retain precious water.*

**Cullen Hanks** studied Biology at Cornell University and received a master's degree from the University of Texas where he studied biodiversity conservation and wildlife exploitation. He has extensive experience collecting biological data in the field in Texas and Latin America. Currently, he works for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. on the Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD) where he compiles information, and provides training on the use of GPS and GIS when monitoring rare species.

**Topic: The Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD): A Tool for the Conservation of Rare Populations of Plants**

The TXNDD is a clearinghouse for information on rare species maintained by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Currently, the TXNDD tracks over 200 species of plants in Texas. In this talk, I will review how we collect, map, organize, and disseminate data essential for informing conservation decisions. We follow a methodology developed by Natureserve which is used in all 50 states. In many states, there is a powerful relationship between similar programs and native plant societies. We are a valuable resource for members interested in the conservation of rare species in Texas. In this presentation, I will review how members can contribute, and how their observations will impact the conservation of rare plants.

**Cindy Howard** is a professor of biology and environmental science at UHCL, where she teaches ecology, environmental toxicology courses. She has been studying the coastal marsh ecosystems of Galveston Bay for over 20 years and also leads annual research and natural history study expeditions to the Brazilian Amazon.

**Topic: (co-presented with Jim Dobberstine) Functional Assessment of Coastal Marsh Plant Communities at Four Restored Sites in the Galveston Bay System**

Coastal marsh ecosystems anchored by smooth cordgrass (Spartina alterniflora) are extremely productive and provide a number of ecologically critical functions and services. In response to the substantial loss of marsh communities in Galveston Bay over the past 50 years, active restoration of numerous coastal wetland systems has been undertaken. The restoration of Pierce Marsh, in the lower Galveston Bay system (1999-2006), employed four different design techniques: 1) filled levees; 2) grid terraces, 3) sinusoidal terraces; and 4) zigzag terraces. Each restored area was planted with S. alterniflora on approximate 3-ft centers. In 2007-2008, we evaluated the functional success of each restoration design compared to a natural marsh reference site, focusing on S. alterniflora density, biomass and productivity, sediment macronutrients, and diversity of naturally established marsh plants. The reference site functional measures exceeded those of all four restoration designs, particularly in sediment macronutrients and corresponding shoot densities and plant productivity.

**Kay Jenkins** is a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department State Parks Regional Natural Resources Coordinator who has worked as a coastal ecologist on the upper and lower coasts of Texas, and currently works in East Texas. She has a BS and MS in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University and a MS in Environmental Science from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is the past-president and current treasurer of the Friends of Connie Hagar, Inc. in Rockport, a board member of the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration, and president-elect of the Tyler Chapter.

**Topic: Restoring Estuarine Marsh Habitat with Beneficial Use of Dredged Material at Goose Island State Park**

Goose Island is exposed to wind-driven waves crossing Aransas Bay on the central Texas coast. GIS analyses of historical aerial photographs indicated that approximately 25 acres of emergent marsh habitat were lost due to erosion between 1969 and 2001. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with assistance from federal, state and local partners initiated a habitat restoration project to stabilize the shoreline, protect near-shore sea-grass beds, and restore estuarine emergent marsh. An offshore rock breakwater was constructed to stabilize the island, and earthen levees were constructed on the north side of Goose Island to form containment levees surrounding two marsh restoration cells in 2005. Since then, dredged material from nearby boat channels has been placed into the cells to raise the elevation of the bay bottom in the 25-acre restoration site to support emergent marsh. Volunteers planted Spartina alterniflora from nearby marshes to facilitate natural colonization of the site.

**Bill Lindemann** graduated from the University of Texas with BS and MA degrees in geology and worked for 32 years with Exxon as an Exploration Geologist, working extensively in the Far East. He was twice President of the Native Plant Society of Texas (2001 and 2006) and in 2003 was awarded the Nancy Benedict Memorial Award for an act of Conservation/Public Service in establishing the Fredericksburg Nature Center and the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center organization. Subsequently, in 2006, he was also awarded the Benny J. Simpson Fellows Award for service by a member for the enrichment of the society. He has written a weekly birding column in the Fredericksburg Standard Radio-Post and the Kerrville Daily Times since 1997. He currently serves as the

President of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center and as President of the Hill Country Land Trust while also serving on the Board of Directors for the Hill Country Historical Foundation. In 2006, the Gillespie County Historical Society awarded him a "Star of Texas" award for his work in creating the Fredericksburg Nature Center and for the preservation of the natural and historical heritage of the Texas Hill Country. Mr. Lindemann is a frequent speaker in the Hill Country on natural history subjects to schools, garden clubs, professional and service organizations, teaches classes on birding and nature at nature centers and adult education schools, and actively promotes historical and natural preservation in the Texas Hill Country through education, outreach and example.

**Topic: (co-presented with Jane Crone) Membership Management: Principles for Success**

Nurturing and growing our membership is a desirable and even necessary goal for our organization which can only be accomplished by local chapter leadership. In this session, key principles and techniques for the both the recruitment and retention of members will be presented. The results from a chapter leader self-assessment previously sent out to chapter leaders will be shared to help understand where we are today with best practices in membership management. Time will be allowed after the presentation for an interactive sharing by the audience of ideas that have been successful in various chapters for growing their membership.

**Shelly Maher** lived under East Texas red oaks until she transplanted to South Texas to attend college at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. She graduated with a degree in Horticulture in 2000, and received a Masters of Biology in 2008. Ms. Maher has worked as a research scientist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Serivce, E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center in Kingsville since 2002. In her work, she performs greenhouse plantings, field evaluations and seed germination tests on native Texas plant species. The research at the PMC leads to commercial seed releases and technology for restoration and conservation across the United States. Ms. Maher lives in Bishop, Texas, with her husband, Christopher.

**Topic: The Pollinator Game**

The Pollinator Workshop includes a PowerPoint based game similar to Jeopardy. Participants are divided into 3 or 4 groups. Groups are asked questions in order to discuss and learn about pollinators rather than use a standard lecture style. Afterwards, handouts are given discussing pollinator habitat, building nest boxes, and pollinator friendly plants. We bring a bee box as an example and also have them construct cane tube bundles for cavity nesting bees.

**Minette Marr** is a plant conservationist for Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. As a graduate student at Southwest Texas State University, Ms. Marr managed a wetlands restoration nursery near the headwaters of the San Marcos River and surveyed the flora of a natural area along the Lower Colorado River. Loss of floristic diversity at both sites highlighted the need for controlling invasive species and re-introducing endemic species. Her position in the Conservation Department at the Wildflower Center allows Minnette to collaborate with land stewards and citizen scientists to increase the sustainable use and conservation of native plants and landscapes.

**Topic: Partners and Protocols for Plant Conservation – Becoming a Citizen Scientist**

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center promotes the sustainable use and conservation of native plants and landscapes. By providing regional workshops and online resources, the Wildflower Center encourages residents in each natural region to collaborate with landscapers, plant nursery managers, educators, academics, and land stewards to create, preserve, and restore the native habitats that define the region. Use of established protocols for monitoring invasive species and reporting endemic species allows native plant enthusiasts to track changes in native habitats over time. Furthermore, participation in established information networks encourages native plant enthusiasts to focus limited resources in the most threatened native habitats. Widespread use of these protocols and information networks transforms local groups of volunteers into regional teams of citizen scientists. This workshop will provide an overview of the citizen science programs offered through the Wildflower Center.

**Pam Middleton** is the State Coordinator for the State Office located in Fredericksburg.

**Topic: An Overview of Leaderweb – Our Chapter Management Tool**

Leaderweb is an electronic utility residing on our website that provides various tools for chapter leaders to manage their membership rolls, communicate with their members via email or mailings, and submit chapter financial reports amongst many other capabilities. Additionally, chapter leaders have access through Leaderweb to much needed reference information such as our by-laws, State Board information, State Board contacts, and other vital information. An overview of the capabilities of this important utility will be provided to chapter leaders which will help improve their efficiency and effectiveness as leaders.

**Brent Ortego** is a Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He has worked for TPWD since 1982 in a variety of roles mostly associated with nongame and habitat management. He has worked for the last 11 years assisting landowners with Coastal Prairie restoration as part of the Coastal Prairie Conservation Initiative.

**Topic: Avian Responses to a Changing Coastal Prairie**

The Coastal Prairie has been greatly modified by Anglos and there are few examples of large blocks of native grasslands greater than 10,000 ha. remaining. Standard 40 km U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Survey routes were used to compare breeding bird density in a former Coastal Prairie (McFaddin) that contained 12% native grasslands to those in a nearby (5 km) large block of actively managed Coastal Prairie (Goliad) that contained 75% native grasslands. Both routes averaged 52 species during annual surveys. The Goliad route averaged more Mottled Duck, N. Bobwhite, White-tailed Hawk, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, Cassin's Sparrow, Dickcissel, and E. Meadowlark which are species better adapted to large grasslands with little brush. The McFaddin route averaged more Inca Dove, Barred Owl, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, E. Bluebird, N. Mockingbird, Lark Sparrow, N. Cardinal and Brown-headed Cowbird which are species better adapted to brush and forest lands. Thirty additional species did not occur at significantly higher numbers on either route.

**Jason Singhurst** received a B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Science from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas. He has conducted field research on vegetation ecology of the West Gulf Coastal Plain for the past 14 years. His expertise includes natural areas inventory, plant community ecology, and plant taxonomy. He has served as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department botanist/ecologist in Texas for the past 13 years. He has extensive field knowledge with rare plant species in eastern and central Texas. He has authored or co-authored over 40 scientific publications and in 2007 co-authored a book on Rare Plants of Texas. He has described two plant species new to science that are endemic (restricted) to Texas. Mr. Singhurst has in-depth experience with vegetation mapping, descriptive vegetation classification, and natural resource surveys on public and private lands. Jason has a strong interest in prairies and prairie fens (prairie wetlands) as he has conducted many botanical surveys of these floristically rich plant communities in Texas, Oklahoma, and southeastern Kansas where he was raised and spends as much time with his family as he can. He has concentrated the past few years on rare and endemic plant surveys of coastal prairies, including defining a few un-described prairie swale plant communities in the Coastal Bend region of Texas.

**Topic:** ***Some Rare and Endemic Plants of the Texas Coastal Plain***

*Mr. Singhurst will present some of the rare and/or endemic plants of the Coastal Plain and why they are important to the continued health of this eco-region*

**Carolyn White** is a Project Manager for the Harris County Flood Control District Environmental Services Division. She currently manages projects under the water quality and re-vegetation programs, including wetland planting for water quality enhancement, detention basin layout, ongoing water quality monitoring, and preparation of landscape and planting plans for capital improvement projects. Prior to joining the District, she was an environmental consultant at ENTRIX, Inc. for 11 years. Ms. White holds a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture/Environmental Planning from The University of

California – Berkeley and a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Geology from Carleton College, Northfield Minnesota. She is chair of the Restoration Committee of the Coastal Prairie Partnership.

**Topic: Flood Damage Reduction Projects Support Native Habitats**

The Texas legislature created the Harris County Flood Control District (the "District") in 1937 to identify and mitigate flooding problems that plagued the populated coastal plain of the Upper Galveston Bay watershed. In practice, the District achieves flood mitigation by siting, designing, and maintaining flood damage reduction and drainage facilities. These facilities mitigate runoff impacts, reduce peak flows, and in some cases enhance the quality of storm-water discharged from developed areas. Storm-water treatment systems implemented by the District include the creation of wetland areas within wet bottom detention basins and riparian channels. The District initiated a program to re-vegetate these facilities using native plant species from local sources. The goals of the District's re-vegetation program include site stability, water quality enhancement, habitat diversity, permit compliance, and reduced maintenance costs. Generally, the District installs plants to create wetlands, riparian corridors, reforestation areas, and coastal prairie habitats. This presentation will provide an overview of the District's re-vegetation program, and present information regarding the installation, monitoring, and maintenance of these habitats.

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The conservation and education goals of the Native Plant Society of Texas benefit us all, but we can't do it without the generous support of friends like you. The annual Fall Symposium is our largest educational and fundraising event. As a leader in your community, your support is truly needed – and appreciated – to make this event a success. Please help the Society continue its good work by being a part of this year's event with a donation. Click here for a Sponsorship Form and list of Sponsorship Opportunities still available.

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