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The Texas Hill Country – a Changing Landscape

32nd Annual Native Plant Society Of Texas Fall Symposium
Thursday, October 4 – Sunday, October 7, 2012
YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center in Kerrville Texas

Early 19th century Texas explorers described the Hill Country landscape as savannahs interrupted by groves of sparse timber with “real thickets” existing only in the “ravines of water courses.” Buffalo and bear were found near Town Creek in what is now downtown Kerrville, while the Pedernales River was described as “smart and clear.” By the 1860’s, much of the timber near settlements had been cut for human dwellings, and livestock had already begun to take a significant toll on the prairie grasses.

Fast forward to the late 20th century, and we find the historic balance of savannah and woodland landscapes trending towards more shrubby woodlands threatened by invasive species and unchecked populations of white-tail deer, exotic species, and livestock that place pressure on our botanical resources. Burgeoning human populations with increasing thirst for our water resources further aggravate the issue by destroying or fragmenting native habitats which are the guardians to the gates of our aquifer. Exceptional drought, wildfires, and tree diseases have created new stresses and opportunities for the landscape to evolve in different ways while also serving as learning opportunities for conservationists. Most of our wild lands reside in private ownership which creates both challenges and opportunities for promoting improved stewardship practices.

What will the future landscape of the Hill Country resemble? Mother Nature proves to be ever resilient in re-balancing our natural environment in ways that are not always initially evident to us and on time scales that humans cannot always appreciate. Fortunately, we are learning from our past mistakes. Awareness and appreciation for our natural resources are increasing, and we are gaining new insights on becoming better stewards of our native landscape and how to better influence its natural transformative processes. Interest in conservation of water resources serves as a catalyst for using native plants in landscapes and for preserving native habitats. But will our efforts be effective, and will they come soon enough?

Symposium 2012 explores the history of the Edwards Plateau eco-region, highlights the factors that have influenced its transformation, and debates the issues that we face today in conserving our native plants and habitats. Our speakers will share their research and best practices on how we might positively influence the future evolution of the landscape, improve stewardship of our natural resources, and preserve unspoiled natural habitats in the Edwards Plateau. Field trips to diverse locales will showcase beautiful examples of endemic habitats and efforts to restore or preserve endangered areas.

Do not miss this opportunity to enhance your awareness and knowledge of our Texas Hill Country – A Changing Landscape!

Symposium 2012 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.

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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

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Accommodations

The venue for Symposium 2012 will be the **YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center** located at 2033 Sidney Baker in Kerrville. For information on the hotel go to www.yoresort.com (Note that the hotel is not associated with the YO Exotic Game Ranch.)

All of the rooms at the YO Ranch Hotel have already been booked. Here is a list of other places in the area:

Hotels

Hampton Inn Kerrville (across the street from YO Ranch Hotel)
2038 Sidney Baker Street (Hwy 16)
830-257-0600

Comfort Inn Kerrville (.09 miles from YO Ranch Hotel)
2001 Sidney Baker Street (Hwy 16)
830-792-7700

Days Inn Kerrville (.09 miles from YO Ranch Hotel)
2000 Sidney Baker Street (Hwy 16)
830-896-1000

Holiday Inn Express (.20 Miles from YO Ranch Hotel)
2114 Sidney Baker Street (Hwy 16)
830-895-9500

Super 8 Kerrville (.29 miles from YO Ranch Hotel)
2127 Sidney Baker Street (Hwy 16)
830-896-1511

Campgrounds

Kerrville KOA (5.13 miles from YO Ranch Hotel)
2400 Goat Hill Road
800-562-1665

By the River RV Park (8.15 miles from YO Ranch Hotel)
175 Riverview Road
830-867-5566



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Breakout sessions

Saturday Break-out Session Schedule

1:30pm-2:20pm	
B1	Bill Lindemann, <i>The Nature of the Texas Hill Country</i>
B2	Rachel Cywinski, <i>Native Xeriscaping for Water Conservation</i>
B3	David Davidson, <i>Accelerated Succession: KR Bluestem to Native Grass Restoration</i>
B4	Chapter Management Workshop – Cecil Carter, <i>Image, Public Relations and NPSOT</i>
2:30pm-3:20pm	
B5	Armand Hufault, <i>Extreme Drought of 2010-2012 and its effects upon Texas – Native Plants with emphasis upon Native Plants of the Texas Hill Country</i>
B6	David Mahler, <i>Spicewood Ranch After 23 years of Restoration- What We Have Accomplished and Learned</i>
B7	Jim Stanley, <i>Cedar – Myth and Management</i>
B8	Chapter Management Workshop – Melissa Miller, <i>Certified Native Landscape Professional Program</i>
3:30pm-4:20pm	
B9	Charlotte Reemts, <i>Fire in oak-juniper woodlands: what happens after the smoke clears?</i>
B10	Steve Nalle, <i>Riparian Plants of the Texas Hill Country – Their Functional Importance</i>
B11	Michael Warriner, <i>Identifying, Managing, and Augmenting Resources for Native Bees</i>
B12	Chapter Management Workshop – Anne Adams, Kathy Saucier, John Siemssen, Deedy Wright, <i>Ten Years and Beyond Being NICE!: A Panel Presentation</i>



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[Home](#)—[Call for papers](#)

Call for papers

The Native Plant Society of Texas announces a call for papers for their 32nd annual Fall Symposium to be held on October 4-7th, 2012, in Kerrville, Texas, at the YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center located at 2033 Sidney Baker.

The theme for Symposium 2012 is **"The Texas Hill Country – A Changing Landscape"** and features the Edwards Plateau eco-region and its vegetation. Symposium 2012 explores the history of the Edwards Plateau eco-region, highlights the factors that have influenced its transformation, and debates the issues that we face today in conserving our native plants and habitats. Our speakers will share their research and best practices on how we might positively influence the future evolution of the landscape, improve stewardship of our natural resources, and preserve unspoiled natural habitats in the Edwards Plateau. Field trips to diverse locales will showcase beautiful examples of endemic habitats and efforts to restore or preserve endangered areas.

Authors are invited to submit research papers, general papers on topics of interest, and "how to" articles related to the Symposium 2012 educational theme. 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 June 1. 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 15th of their status along with instructions for submission of the final paper. Final papers accepted for inclusion in the Symposium 2012 Proceedings will be due no later than August 15th, 2012. Selected papers may also be chosen for oral presentation.

For questions, please contact Lonnie Childs, Symposium 2012 co-chair, at symposium@npsot.org, or you may contact the State Office directly at state@npsot.org or by calling 830-997-9272.



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Exhibitors, Vendors and Sponsors

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 2012 to be held on October 4-7 at the YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center located at 2033 Sidney Baker in Kerrville, Texas.

The tentative schedule of activities for exhibitors and vendors is as follows:

Thursday, October 4 12:00 noon Exhibit setup begins
 Friday, October 5 7:00am-6:00pm Exhibits Area open to attendees
 Saturday, October 6 7:00am-6:00pm Exhibits Area open to attendees
 Sunday, October 7 Please clear the Exhibits Area by 12:00 noon

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): \$60 6 ft. x 6 ft. space with one skirted table and a chair.
- Vendor: \$120 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, 2012.

For inquiries or more information, please contact John and Anna Osborn at annaajohn@windstream.net.

Mail applications to:

Native Plant Society of Texas
 Attn: Symposium 2012 Exhibits Committee
 PO Box 3017
 320 W. San Antonio St.
 Fredericksburg, Texas 78624-1929



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Home → Field trips

Field trips

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, FIELD TRIPS (scroll down for complete descriptions)

- #T1 Site: Honey Creek State Natural Area (Bulverde)
- #T2 Site: Kerr Wildlife Management Area (west of Kerrville)
- #T3 Site: Cibolo Nature Center (Boerne)
- #T4 Site: Riverside Nature Center (Kerrville)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, FIELD TRIPS (scroll down for complete descriptions)

- #F1 Site: Riverside Nature Center & the Ertel Home & Gardens
- #F2 Site: Kerrville/Schreiner Park Butterfly Garden & Riverside Nature Center
- #F3 Site: Flora of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (Llano & Gillespie Counties)
- #F4 Site: Trees of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (Llano & Gillespie Counties)
- #F5 Site: Parcels of Historic Giles Ranch (between Fredericksburg & Comfort)
- #F6 Site: "Grass & Range Land" Property of Dan Behringer & Phyllis Muska (Harper)
- #F7 Site: Selah – Bamberger Ranch Preserve (Johnson City)
- #F8 Site: Bear Dog Ranch – Property of Sue Tracy (Medina)
- #F9 Site: Garden Nursery Tours – 2 nurseries specializing in Texas natives
- #Nursery 1 – Natives of Texas, 4256 Medina Hwy, Kerrville
- #F10 Site: Nature Conservancy's Love Creek Preserve (Medina)
- #F11 Site: Stowers Ranch on the Guadalupe River (Hunt)
- #F12 Site: Native American Seed (Junction)
- #F13 Site: Hill Country State Natural Area (Bandera)
- #F14 Site: Lost Maples State Natural Area (Vanderpool)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, FIELD TRIPS (scroll down for complete descriptions)

- #S1 Site: 2 Private Properties in Settler's Ridge (Fredericksburg)
- #S2 Site: Private Residential Property of Ann and Delmar Cain (Boerne)
- #S3 Site: "Grass & Range Land" Property of Dan Behringer & Phyllis Muska (Harper)
- #S4 Site: Fredericksburg Nature Center Trail & Cross Mountain
- #S5 Site: Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area – Nature Trail (between Comfort & Fredericksburg)
- #S6 Site: Cibolo Nature Center (Boerne)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, FIELD TRIPS

#T1 Site: Honey Creek State Natural Area (Bulverde)

Description: The vegetative diversity of the Honey Creek property is one of its most compelling features: Ashe juniper, live oak, agarita and Texas persimmon dominate the dry, rocky hills and grasses such as Lindheimer's muhly and sideoats grama find just enough soil in the cracks to persist. As juniper and baccharis are being removed from the upland oaks, stands of native grasses are increasing, and Indian grass, little blue stem, and switchgrass are reasserting their dominance. As one moves down into the canyon of the creek itself, one is struck by the increase of cedar elm and older junipers and the rather abrupt appearance of Spanish oak, pecan, walnut and Mexican buckeye. As the terrain levels out in the narrow flood plain and the creek itself, the dominant species are bald cypress and sycamore and an associated assortment of other flood plain species such as Texas palmetto, columbine and maidenhair fern occur along the rock banks. Scatter dock floats on the creek surface, and a number of emergent plants are plainly visible in the clear blue-green water.

Topics to be covered include area history just prior to area European habitation to the present: vegetative history; endemic plants from prairie through transition zone to riparian; area geology; creek description and source; Q & A. Note: a printed plant list compiled for Honey Creek SNA will be made available.

Leader: Wilt Shaw: past President Boerne Chapter; current board member and past President, Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek; Texas Master Naturalist

Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/honey-creek/>

Distance: 35 miles to Kerrville

Start time/Duration: 1:00pm (3 hours)

Level of Difficulty: easy walking with an uphill trail near the end

Max # Attendees: 25

Fees: park entry fee \$7/person; \$4/ person 65+. All passengers in vehicles with current yearly parks passes enter free of charge; hike is free but the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek ask for \$2/person donation at the end of the hike. They are a 501(c)(3) organization.

Transport Mode: Member Auto

#T2 Site: Kerr Wildlife Management Area (west of Kerrville)

Description: Kerr WMA Is owned and operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This area was selected as a land base for the Edwards Plateau ecological area to develop and manage wildlife habitats and populations of indigenous wildlife species, provide a site where research of wildlife populations and habitat can be conducted under controlled conditions, and to provide public hunting and appreciative use of wildlife in a manner compatible with the resource. The Area's primary mission is to function as a wildlife management, research, and demonstration site for trained personnel to conduct wildlife related studies and provide resultant information to resource managers, landowners, and other interested groups or individuals to acquaint them with proven practices in wildlife habitat management.

Principal wildlife species found on the Kerr Wildlife Area include white-tailed deer, bobwhite quail, javelin, wild turkey, mourning dove, fox squirrel, raccoon, skunk, armadillo, ringtail "cat", rabbit, gray fox, and many species of reptiles and migratory birds.

Indoor power point presentation will be followed by outdoor activities, tour of cedar break, etc.

Leader: Kerr WMA Guide

Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntswild/hunt/sma/find-a-sma/list/?id=12>

Distance: 40 miles to Kerrville

Start time/Duration: 2:00pm (2 hours)

Level of Difficulty: low to moderate level of difficulty

Max # Attendees: 25

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Member Auto

#T3 Site: Cibolo Nature Center (Boerne)



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Description: The Cibola Nature Center is 100 acres of Hill Country trails and wilderness. The center provides education, research, entertainment and outdoor activities for more than 100,000 visitors a year, while promoting sound stewardship of land, water and wildlife. The center embraces four distinct ecosystems: riparian forest; live oak savannah, tall-grass prairie and spring-fed marsh. Features also include a butterfly and "milkweed patch" garden and demonstration gardens.

Leader: CNC Guide

Website: www.cibola.org/

Distance: 37 miles to Kerrville

Start time/Duration: 1:00pm (2 hours)

Level of Difficulty: most trails are low to moderate level of difficulty

Max # Attendees: will accommodate 2 groups of 20 each

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Member Auto

#T4 Site: Riverside Nature Center (Kerrville)

Description: RNC is a publicly supported nonprofit organization created as an urban wildlife and native plant sanctuary/arboretum. The 5 acre property, located at the junction of the Guadalupe River and Town Creek, is a living demonstration of possibilities for restoring an urban area as a wildlife habitat and showcase for native plants.

The Center is landscaped with over 140 species of trees, a wide range of native shrubs and grasses, and some 200 species of wildflowers. Demonstration gardens include a butterfly garden, xeric border ethno botany berm, sensory garden, meandering walking paths and a natural area wildlife habitat trail along the river. The Center volunteers are working diligently to restore the meadow area damaged by the 2011 record drought. Part of that project is the recently installed rainwater collection system. RNC sponsors and/or hosts a variety of public educational programs.

Leader: Self-guided

Website: <http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org/>

Distance: approx. 3 miles from the YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: easy to moderate, wheel chair accessible in most areas. The trails are mulched or bare rocky soil.

Max # Attendees: not applicable

Fees: None, but contributions are greatly appreciated

Transport Mode: Member Auto

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, FIELD TRIPS

#F1 Site: Riverside Nature Center & the Ertel Home & Gardens

Group A Riverside Nature Center (Kerrville)

Description: RNC is a publicly supported nonprofit organization created as an urban wildlife and native plant sanctuary/arboretum. The 5 acre property, located at the junction of the Guadalupe River and Town Creek, is a living demonstration of possibilities for restoring an urban area as a wildlife habitat and showcase for native plants.

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Leader: RNC Docent

Website: <http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org/>

Distance: approx. 3 miles from the YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: easy to moderate, wheel chair accessible in most areas. The trails are mulched or bare rocky soil.

Max # Attendees: 2 groups of 20 each

Fees: None, but contributions are greatly appreciated

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

Group B Home of Richard & Stephanie Ertel

Description: This house has a stucco exterior and a clay plaster interior with very thick walls. It is a one story, approximately 2,000 square foot home set on a south-facing hillside in a natural setting. The water supply is entirely water catchment from a 20,600 gallon tank. They also have an off-grid solar power system and solar hot water. All appliances are energy saving models and they use composting type toilets. They use grey water for irrigation of the landscape.

Leaders: Richard & Stephanie Ertel, homeowners

Website: NA

Distance: 20 miles to their home from YO Hotel, 15.5 miles from the RNC

Level of Difficulty: moderate – the property is walker and wheelchair accessible. There is a low step between the driveway and porch. Pathways leading to the rainwater tank and the solar power equipment are dirt or cedar chip.

Max # Attendees: 2 groups of 20, 1 touring their home while the other is outside & then go to the RNC

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F2 Site: Kerrville/Schreiner Park Butterfly Garden & Riverside Nature Center

Group A Kerrville/Schreiner Park Butterfly Garden

Description: The Butterfly Garden was designed and installed in 2000 by the Friends of

Kerrville/Schreiner State Park. The garden is approximately 104' X 104' and is enclosed by a deer proof fence. In the middle of the garden is a fire ring with seating with a raised circular bed separating this area from the remainder of the garden. There are several mulched paths marked by flags for the milkweed, which are used for data collection. In 2006, the garden was certified as a Monarch Way Station.

The Kerrville/Schreiner Park is a beautiful 547 acre recreational and camping park along the Guadalupe River five miles SE of downtown Kerrville. Originally a CCC project in the early 1930s, the park was next operated by TPWD and in 2004 was transferred back to the city of Kerrville.

Features include campsites and trails on both sides of HWY 173, which splits the park into 2 sides; the larger hill side and the smaller river side. Here you will find a representative sampling of Hill Country landscape, with juniper, live oak, and Spanish oak on the hills and arroyos. Other plants include redbud, sumac, buckeye, pecan, mesquite, and many varieties of flowers. Walking the trails on both sides of the highway will show that the birds and vegetation on the limestone uplands trails are very different from the river bottom habitat below. The park is home to an abundance of wildlife including whitetail and axis deer, lizards, rabbits, fox, butterflies and more.

Leader: Cathy Downs & other K/SP Guides

Website: <http://www.kerrville.org/>

Distance: approx. 3 miles from the YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: level gravel path to the butterfly garden, accessible to anyone; 8 miles of hiking trails & 6 miles of mountain bike trails

Max # Attendees: 2 groups of 20 each

Fees: park entry fee of \$4/person, \$2/seniors, not to exceed \$10/car

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

Group B Riverside Nature Center (Kerrville)

Description: As described in #F1 above, this field trip will include the RNC along with the Kerrville/Schreiner Park Butterfly Garden. The group will be divided in 2 & start at the Butterfly Garden and then proceed to the RNC.

Leader: RNC Docent

Website: <http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org/>

Distance: approx. 3 miles from the YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: easy to moderate, wheel chair accessible in most areas. The trails are mulched or bare rocky soil.

Note: Walking shoes and sun hats are advisable

Max # Attendees: 2 groups of 20 each

Fees: None, but contributions are greatly appreciated

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F3 Site: Flora of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (Llano & Gillespie Counties)

Description: Enchanted Rock SNA is part of a geologic region known as the Llano Uplift. A characteristic feature is a central basin having a rolling floor studded with rounded granite hills 400 – 600 feet high. Rocks forming both the basin and hills are among the oldest in the state. Enchanted rock is a large, pink, crystalline, granite mass formed during the Precambrian Era nearly a billion years ago. It is one of the largest batholiths (underground rock formation uncovered by erosion) in the U.S.

The four major plant communities are mesquite grassland, floodplain, open oak woodland and granite rock. On the bare granite summit vernal pools (shallow weather pits with thin granite soil) are ecologically significant. The depressions shelter plants and animals uniquely adapted to extremes of temperature and weather. The pools support fairy shrimp which survive total desiccation as fertilized eggs, hatch into larvae and grow into adults every time water collects after sufficient rainfall. Successional stages in the vernal pools are: algae and quillworts to liverworts and stonewort to sedges to annuals and to grassland. Inappropriate use threatens them.

Leader: Bill Lindemann, past State President, past President Fredericksburg Chapter

Website: Park site: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/enchanted-rock>

Wildflower List 18 pages, Bird List 12 pages: <http://www.friendsofenchantedrock.com>

Distance: 40 miles from YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: moderate to hard hike, climbing is a bit more strenuous, bring water bottles, sun hat & good hiking shoes

Max # Attendees: 15

Fees: \$6/person All passengers in vehicles with current yearly parks passes enter free of charge

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F4 Site: Trees of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (Llano & Gillespie Counties)

Description: This field trip will explore the diversity of trees in this unique area of the Hill Country.

Leader: Robert Edmonson, Biologist – Texas Forest Service

Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-arks/enchanted-rock>

Distance: 40 miles from YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: moderate to hard hike, climbing is a bit more strenuous, bring water bottles, sun hat & good hiking shoes

Max # Attendees: 15

Fees: \$6/person All passengers in vehicles with current yearly parks passes enter free of charge.

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F5 Site: Parcels of Historic Giles Ranch (between Fredericksburg & Comfort)

Description: Hike along Block Creek, as well as a canyon and a rocky hillside. Expect to see Hill Country species including escarpment black cherry, Texas ash, lacey oak, Texas

muicerry, sycamore-ear snowbell, agave and more. We will see L.D. trees, snags, wildflowers, grasses and cover some ethnobotany (historical uses of plants for food, medicine, dyes, etc). Be prepared to walk the hills. We will do a combination of hiking and driving to areas on this property. Originally part of the historic Giles Ranch, the properties are owned today by descendants of the noted 19th-20th century architect, Alfred Giles, known for his design of many Texas courthouses and other public buildings.

Leader: Patty Leslie Pasztor, co-author of "Texas Trees"

Website: NA

Distance: 27 miles from YO Hotel (allow 45 minutes from YO Hotel)

Level of Difficulty: moderately strenuous – hiking on gravelly hills/canyons, wear good walking shoes, wear a hat & bring water.

Max # Attendees: 18

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F6 Site: "Grass & Range Land" Property of Dan Behringer & Phyllis Muska (Harper)

Description: This private ranch is composed of 55 acres of native savanna and bottom-lands near the headwaters of the Pedernales River southwest of Fredericksburg. The trip will feature native grasses including the "Big Four" of the Hill Country – Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, and Eastern Gamagrass. We also examine typical forbs of the Edwards Plateau. Bring your favorite Texas grass book.

Leader: Jim Stanley, Master Naturalist & author of "Hill Country Landowner's Guide"

Website: NA

Distance: 25 miles from YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: relatively flat savanna, there may be chiggers in the grass

Max # Attendees: 20

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F7 Site: Selah – Bamberger Ranch Preserve (Johnson City)

Description: The Preserve is a 5,500 acre ranch that has been described as the largest habitat restoration project on private land in Texas. You can learn about the environment while pausing to reflect on the beauty and serenity of Hill Country nature.

On the tour, you may discover dinosaur tracks, hunt for Cretaceous fossils, see the Chiroptorium, a man-made cave built to house 1 million bats, and visit the largest herd of the endangered Schmitter-horned Oryx in the world of which they have documented and registered genetics. Selah has hiking trails, a nature trail with interpretive signs identifying native plants and Madrone Lake where people can swim, fish or enjoy looking into the clear water. The ranch was purchased in 1969 with the specific purpose of restoring habitat; priorities lean to 51% to preserve nature with 49% to use the ranch as an educational tool. The tour will include a wagon ride and some walking.

Leaders: Colleen Gardner

Website: www.bambergeranch.org

Distance: 64 miles from YO Hotel, about 1 hour 20 minutes

Level of Difficulty: easy to moderate

Max # Attendees: 30

Fees: \$10/person Note that Selah is a nonprofit 501(c)(3)

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F8 Site: Bear Dog Ranch – Property of Sue Tracy (Medina)

Description: This property consists of about 80 acres of grassland, oak-pecan savannah and riparian areas along Bauerlein Creek and the West Prong of the Medina River. It has been fenced and protected from deer for the past 20 years. The landscaping around Sue's home was installed over 15 years ago and incorporates only plants native to the Edwards Plateau, including native prairie grasses. The walking tour will follow mowed pathways around the house and along the waterways. Sue has been very involved in native plant protection and restoration on her own property and over the years has given presentations on naturalistic landscape design, decorative use of native grasses, oak wilt prevention and control and native ferns.

Leader: Sue Tracy, homeowner

Website: NA

Distance: 35 miles from YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: moderate – the paths are accessible to walkers; some areas are wheelchair accessible, wear sun hats and comfortable walking shoes

Max # Attendees: 30

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool – led by Bill Stone

#F9 Site: Garden Nursery Tours – 2 nurseries specializing in Texas natives

#Nursery 1 – Natives of Texas, 4256 Medina Hwy, Kerrville

Description: A unique setting with mostly native plants, in a natural, hilly country setting. The nursery is located in a ravine along beautiful Spring Creek and is part of the 116 acre Spring Creek Ranch which features native stands of Madrone trees and other unique vegetation. The nursery grows a number of "hard to find" Texas native plants. After the visit to Natives of Texas, the group will travel to Medina Nursery.

Leader: David Winningham, owner

Website: www.nativesoftexas.com

Distance: 12 miles from YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: uneven gravel paths, not accessible by wheelchair

Max # Attendees: 20

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool – led by Melinda Wasson &/or Nina Wagner

Nursery #2 – Medina Garden Nursery, 13417 State Hwy 16, Medina

Description: Another unique nursery with mostly native plants in a rural setting. Special features include caliche garden, shade garden and butterfly gardens. If time permits, we will take a short walk down to the river, which takes you to an area with frostweed, which in October is a feeding ground for migrating monarchs. Owner, Ernesto has lived on the property for over 20 years and has been in the Texas native plant business for over eleven years. Medina Garden Nursery also grows a number of “hard to find” Texas native plants.

Leader: Ernesto, owner

Website: www.medinagarden@hctc.net

Distance: 25 miles from YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: easy accessibility

Max # Attendees: 20

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool – led by Melinda Wasson &/or Nina Wagner

#F10 Site: Nature Conservancy’s Love Creek Preserve (Medina)

Description: Love Creek Preserve is located just south of Medina and includes a number of rare and endangered plants, including Tobusch fishhook cactus, endangered birds such as the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo, to name a few. Also, there are rare salamanders in the creek. Love Creek flows through the Conservancy’s 1,400 acre preserve for 2 ¼ miles before it joins with the West Prong of the Medina River, eventually contributing to the Edwards Aquifer. The Preserve protects a representation of the most diverse habitats in the nation and some of the most scenic land in Texas.

Leader: Charlotte Reemts &/or Rebecca Flack

Website: <http://www.nature.org>

Distance: 26 miles from YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: easy to moderate, wear sun hats and comfortable walking shoes

Max # Attendees: 20

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F11 Site: Stowers Ranch on the Guadalupe River (Hunt)

Description: This 11,800 private acre ranch is rolling terrain, with numerous hills offering spectacular views of sweeping valleys, deep draws and dramatic cliffs. The presence of live water, including segments of the Guadalupe River, is one of its most distinguishing features. Stowers Ranch has been a land and wildlife management ranch since 1904. Jason Singhurst will lead the group with the focus on riparian vegetation of the Hill Country and highlight many of the plants that he will discuss in his keynote presentation on Friday morning.

Leader: Jason Singhurst, TPWD Biologist & co-author of “Rare Plants of Texas”

Website: <http://www.stowersranch.com/about/landscape>

Distance: 28 miles west of YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: easy to moderate, wear sun hats and comfortable walking shoes

Max # Attendees: 20

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F12 Site: Native American Seed (Junction)

Description: Much of the water that recharges our aquifers, feeds our thousands springs and maintains our rivers and streams is filtered through deep rooted native plants. Every citizen, urban and rural, can explore and utilize the full pallet of readily available native wildflowers, prairie grasses and diverse native mixes when engaging in land management activities. By working together to restore native vegetation, we can all help maintain an adequate supply of fresh, quality groundwater for our future. Native plants and grasses know exactly how to live right here with no extra care.

Founded in 1988, Native American Seed does not use, sell or promote alien plant species that adversely affect the economy and ecology of Texas’ natural habitats and the bioregions they invade. Native American Seed of Junction, Texas is based at the center of nine eco-regions. Our mission is to help people restore the earth by offering a wide diversity of 100% native species. Experience the natives – wildlife viewing, birding and photography while touring the Native American Seed farm. Enjoy an evolving ecological restoration or river hardwood forest, mesquite flats and upland rolling hill country. This will be a walking tour.

Leader: Emily Neiman, the daughter of founders & owners Bill & Jan Neiman

Website: www.seedsource.com

Distance: 60 miles from YO Hotel

Level of Difficulty: 1 mile hike with many stops along the way

Max # Attendees: 35

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F13 Site: Hill Country State Natural Area (Bandera)

Description: Tucked away in the rugged terrain southwest of Bandera is Hill Country State Natural Area, an undeveloped and secluded retreat comprised of 5400 acres of undeveloped Hill Country terrain. Approximately 40 miles of multiuse trails wind up grassy valleys, cross spring-fed streams and climb steep limestone hills.

Leader: Park Ranger

Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-park/hill-country>

Distance: 39 miles from YO Hotel, 12 miles southwest of Bandera

Level of Difficulty: easy to moderate, wear sun hats and comfortable walking shoes

Max # Attendees: 15

Fees: \$6/person All passengers in vehicles with current yearly parks passes enter free of charge 830.796.4413

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

#F14 Site: Lost Maples State Natural Area (Vanderpool)

Description: Lost Maples SNA sits on a beautiful, rugged canyon of the upper Sabinal River and features a large population of Big-tooth Maples and Madrone trees. The park is an outstanding example of Edwards Plateau flora and fauna. It is a combination of steep, rugged limestone canyons; springs; plateau grasslands; wooded slopes; and clear streams. The large, isolated stand of uncommon Uvalde Big-tooth Maple produces fall foliage can be spectacular. Over 11 miles of trails some with moderate hiking conditions and others with steep climbs to the tops of the canyon and hills. Rare species of birds, such as the green kingfisher, can be seen year-round. The endangered black-capped vireo and Golden-cheeked warbler nest and feed in the park in spring and early summer. Wild animals include gray fox, white-tailed deer, armadillo, raccoon, bobcat, rock squirrel and javelin.

Leader: Park Ranger Richard Treece

Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/lost-maples>

Distance: 46 miles from YO Hotel, 5 miles north of Vanderpool

Level of Difficulty: easy to moderate, wear sun hats and comfortable walking shoes

Max # Attendees: 20

Fees: \$6/person All passengers in vehicles with current yearly parks passes enter free of charge 830.966.3413

Transport Mode: Caravan carpool

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, FIELD TRIPS

#S1 Site: 2 Private Properties in Settler's Ridge (Fredericksburg)

Group A Four Acre Wildscape Home of Ward & Pat Miller

Description: This designated "Wildlife Habitat" with unique gardens and wildscapes, daily attracts wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, a host of wild birds, including hummingbirds and numerous butterflies. Featured are several diverse styles of gardening including traditional foundation plantings of Texas natives, well adapted stock in terraced beds, fenced enclosed back garden on the very challenging back slope, a great creek bed drainage design, a pondless waterfall, and true wildscaping to provide food, water, shelter and space to a variety of wildlife. The landscape design began at the completion of their home in 2001, dealing with terracing and footpath flow of the front gardens, to significant elevation changes to the back of their property. With extensive use of prairie restoration in the front, side and back of their property, this helps cut back on mowing.

Leader: Ward Miller, homeowner; Vice President Fredericksburg Chapter, Master Naturalist

Website: NA

Distance: 25 miles from YO Hotel

Start time/Duration: 10am (1.5 hours)

Level of Difficulty: easy: trail goes up driveway and around the house, some short steps, may rest on back porch half way around house, and frequent stops for discussion.

Max # Attendees: 2 groups of 15, 1 at each home and then switch to tour the other property

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Member Auto

Group B 4 Acre Wildscape Home of Kathy & Will Lyles

Description: Of the 4 acres, about 1 1/2 acres are under cultivation, with some unusual fencing to keep out the deer. There are hundreds of native trees, shrubs and flowers; most introduced to the property. Kathy's special interest is in planting larval plants for butterflies. You will see dozens of native larval plants for many species of butterflies and caterpillars. You will get to walk by her dry creek bed and rain pond installed to slow the water flowing across the land. There is a large vegetable garden with drip irrigation and a "secret garden". The draw at the back of the property has been "enhanced" with cedar steps, a footbridge and terraced with cedar logs. Kathy enjoys using natural materials, especially those found on her property.

Leader: Kathy Lyles, homeowner

Website: NA

Distance: 25 miles from YO Hotel, across and down the street from the Millers' home

Start time/Duration: 10am (1.5 hours)

Level of Difficulty: easy: trail goes down driveway and around to the back of the property, some short steps, and frequent stops for discussion.

Max # Attendees: 2 groups of 15, 1 at each home and then switch to tour the other property

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Member Auto

#S2 Site: Private Residential Property of Ann and Delmar Cain (Boerne)

Description: The Cain property is located on 6 1/2 acres on Spring Creek, 1/2 mile from its convergence with the Guadalupe River. The land includes an upper portion, where the residence is located, which

has typical Hill Country trees including ash juniper, shin oak, cedar elm, live oak, Spanish oak, gum bumelia and hackberry. Behind the residence, a limestone cliff that lines Spring Creek has sycamore leaf snowbell, Roemer's acacia, kidney wood, and canyon mock-orange. Along the banks of spring fed Spring Creek are cypress, palmetto, bushy bluestem, chatter-box orchid, green dragon, basswood, pecan, sycamore and red buckeye. There is a trail along the cliff with rock steps down to the creek bottom. The tour will not be handicap accessible, but certain spots can be viewed from an automobile. A plant list is available on request.

Leader: Delmar Cain, the homeowner, stayed in a Holiday Inn once and has some knowledge of the plants on the property. He was Boerne Chapter President for 2010-2011.

Website: NA

Distance: 43 miles from YO Hotel

Start time/Duration: 10am (1.5 – 2 hours)

Level of Difficulty: Moderately difficult in some areas, wear hiking shoes.

Max # Attendees: 20

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Member Auto

#S3 Site: “Grass & Range Land” Property of Dan Behringer & Phyllis Muska (Harper)

Description: This private ranch is composed of 55 acres of native pasture and bottom-lands near the headwaters of the Pedernales River southwest of Fredericksburg. The trip will feature native grasses including the “Big Four” of the Hill Country – Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, and Eastern Gamagrass. We also examine typical forbs of the Edwards Plateau. Bring your favorite Texas grass book.

Leader: Jim Stanley, Master Naturalist & author of “Hill Country Landowner’s Guide”

Website: NA

Distance: 25 miles from YO Hotel

Start time/Duration: 10am (1.5 hours)

Level of Difficulty: relatively flat savanna, there may be chiggers in the grass

Max # Attendees: 20

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Member Auto

#S4 Site: Fredericksburg Nature Center Trail & Cross Mountain

Stop #1: Fredericksburg Nature Center Trail

Meet at the entrance to the Nature Trail in Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park (Fredericksburg)

Description: Inside the LBJ Municipal Park (150 acres) is a unique ten acre nature center built and maintained by the Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center. This area is an unusual blend of diversity due to its geologic location and Live Oak Creek. There are over 6,000 feet of trails that wind through the seven distinct and scenic habitats. The old growth live oak forest, prairie, post oak savannah, wetlands, riparian areas, cedar brake and dry brush land intrigue and delight visitors anytime of the year. Add the springs and seeps, lake islands, mud flats and lake aquatics; you have 11 habitats within easy walking distance. In addition, a 650 foot long handicapped accessible trail has a geology and rock exhibit, a butterfly garden, a bird blind and feeding area, and a scenic view across Live Oak Creek into the riparian area, prairie and live oaks. Bring water bottles, wear hat & comfortable walking shoes.

Leader: Bill Lindemann, past State President, past President Fredericksburg Chapter

Website: <http://www.fredericksburgnaturecenter.org/>

Distance: 20 miles from YO Hotel

Start time/Duration: 10am (1.5 hours)

Level of Difficulty: easy to moderate, handicap accessible area

Max # Attendees: 15

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Member Auto

Stop #2: Group will caravan to Cross Mountain after FNC

Description: This marl (lime-rich mud or mudstone) and limestone hill, elevation 1,951 ft, was used as an Indian lookout, signal point prior to early settlers. The hill was first recorded and described by the German geologist Dr. Ferdinand Roemer in 1847. When John Christian Durst arrived with his family in 1847; he received a town lot and ten acres of land which included the hill. On finding a timber cross on the hill top, he named it “Kreuzberg” or Cross Mountain. Subsequent crosses were erected with illumination beginning in 1946. Over 130 plants have been identified within the 16 acre park. Trails go around the base and up to the summit.

Leader: Bill Lindemann, past State President, past President Fredericksburg Chapter

Website: <http://www.fredericksburgnaturecenter.org/>

Distance: 1.3 miles from Fbg Nature Center on N. Milam

Start time/Duration: around 11:30am (1.5 hours) following the FNC – times approximate

Level of Difficulty: easy to moderate

Max # Attendees: 15

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Member Auto

#S5 Site: Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area – Nature Trail

(between Comfort & Fredericksburg)

Description: This wildlife area, managed by the TPW encompasses 16 acres. While most noted for the huge bat population in the abandoned railroad tunnel on the site, the property also boasts 150+ species of plants. Features include: cedar elm, Ashe juniper, escarpment black cherry, live and shin oak and hackberry; understory trees and shrubs include Texas persimmon, Mexican buckeye, agarita, elbowbush, Texas kidneywood, Eve’s necklace and possumhaw. Frostweed, sotol, twist-leaf and Buckley’s yuccas are common forbs. A half-mile nature trail includes a steep stair-stepped trail to the level bottom area.

Leader: OLWMA Guide

Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/wma/find-a-wma/list/?id=17>

Distance: about 33 miles from YO Hotel; 13 miles north of Comfort, 11 miles south of Fredericksburg

Start time/Duration: 10am (about 1 hour)

Level of Difficulty: moderate level of difficulty, some steep grades

Max # Attendees: 15

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Member Auto

#S6 Site: Cibolo Nature Center (Boerne)

Description: The Cibolo Nature Center is 100 acres of Hill Country trails and wilderness. The center provides education, research, entertainment and outdoor activities for more than 100,000 visitors a year, while promoting sound stewardship of land, water and wildlife. The center embraces four distinct ecosystems: riparian forest; live oak savannah, tall-grass prairie and spring-fed marsh. Features also include a butterfly and "milkweed patch" garden and demonstration gardens.

Leader: CNC Tour Guide

Website: www.cibolo.org/

Distance: 37 miles from Kerrville

Start time/Duration: 1:00pm (2 hours)

Level of Difficulty: most trails are low to moderate level of difficulty

Max # Attendees: will accommodate 2 groups of 20 each

Fees: None

Transport Mode: Member Auto

[Home](#) → [Photo Contest](#)

Photo Contest

Photographers are invited to enter our annual photo contest of images that feature our beautiful 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 6, 2012.
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, September 27, 2012.
8. Winning photographs will be shown on our website and published in the *NPSOT News*. Other entries may also be used similarly.
9. Only the original photographer may enter a photograph.
10. Photographs not meeting all requirements will be disqualified.

Note: All photos entered become the property of the 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 the Native Plant Society of Texas. Photographers will be credited for their work with each use.

Awards: Award certificates will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each class/category combination. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the Symposium dinner held on Saturday evening, October 6th. Winning photographs will also be posted on the NPSOT website and published in the *NPSOT News*.

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

Follow these steps to enter the Symposium 2012 Photo Contest:

Submit your digital photo as an email attachment to photocontest@npsot.org no later than Thursday, September 27, 2012.

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 2012. 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 6th.

Complete two copies of the [Photo Contest 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.



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The Texas Hill Country – A Changing Landscape

Thursday, Oct 4 – Sunday, Oct 7
YO Ranch Hotel
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To contact us:

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Friedensburg, Texas 78624

[Home](#)—[Plant Arrangement Contest](#)

Plant Arrangement Contest

Let Nature Be Your Inspiration!

Designing With Texas Natives Competition Guidelines

The Native Plant Society of Texas invites all chapters and individuals to participate in the third annual Designing With Texas Natives competition. Arrangements will be on display for viewing and voting on by all symposium participants. Arrangements may be dried or fresh. All plant materials used 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 11 am on Saturday, October 6th.

Please fill out **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 State of Texas. Please submit a species list with your arrangement. Common names are acceptable.
2. Plant material may be dried or fresh
3. Container of your choice
4. Size:
5. Maximum Width/Length—24" X 12"
6. Height—Unlimited
7. No minimum size limits

Popular vote by symposium participants will elect the winners. Certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the banquet on Saturday evening, October 6th.

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



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[Home](#) → [Registration](#)

Registration

Complete Conference Package:

(includes all meals, field trips, workshops and proceedings on CD)

- **Member Registration – Early** (up thru Sept 13) / **Late** (after Sept 13) **\$160/\$175**
- **Non-Member Registration – Early** (up thru Sept 13) / **Late** (after Sept 13) **\$185/\$205**
- **Student** (please email current unofficial transcripts to studentreg@npsot.org) **\$50**
- **Educator** (please [print form](#) and email to state@npsot.org) **\$75**

Single Day Options:

- **Member Friday Only Registration \$50**
(includes speakers, lunch, field trips and proceedings on CD)
- **Non-Member Friday Only Registration \$70**
(includes speakers, lunch, field trips and proceedings on CD)
- **Member Saturday Only Registration \$50**
(includes speakers, lunch, break-out sessions and proceedings on CD)
- **Non-Member Saturday Only Registration \$70**
(includes speakers, lunch, break-out sessions and proceedings on CD)

Single Meal Options:

- **Thursday Night Welcome Reception \$15**
- **Friday Night Buffet Dinner & Entertainment \$30**
- **Saturday Night Awards Dinner \$30**

Preregistration is now closed. If you have not yet preregistered, you will need to register on site at the YO Ranch Hotel in the lobby.

Registration hours:

Thursday 5:00pm-8:00pm
Friday 7:00am-12:00pm
Saturday 7:00am-10:30am



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Schedule

Thursday, Oct 4		
Spanish Oak	12:00pm-5:00pm	Exhibits and Vendor Set-up
	2:00pm-5:00pm	In-bound Field Trips
Lobby	5:00pm-8:00pm	Registration and Check-in Open
Spanish Oak		Deliver Silent Auction items to auction receiving area.
Veranda	5:00pm-6:30pm	Welcome Reception: Appetizers & Cash Bar
		<i>Sponsored by the Boerne, Fredericksburg, and Kerrville NPSOT Chapters</i>
Friday, October 5		
Guadalupe	6:30am-8:00am	Full Breakfast
Lobby	7:00am-12:00pm	Registration and Check-in Open
Lobby		Speaker Check-in Open
Lobby		T-Shirt Sales Open
Spanish Oak		Deliver Silent Auction items to auction receiving area.
Spanish Oak		Photo Contest & Flower Arrangement Contests Open for Delivery of Entries
Spanish Oak	7:00am-7:00pm	Exhibits and Vendor Area Open
Live Oak/Cypress	8:00am-8:15am	Friday Plenary Session Begins
		Welcome and Introductions
		Lonnie Childs and Lynn Fishell – Symposium Co-Chairpersons
Live Oak/Cypress	8:15am-9:15am	<i>Wire and Fire: A Historical Perspective on Ecosystems Management in the Texas Hill Country</i>
		Don Freis, Project Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Edwards Plateau Ecosystems Management Project
	9:15am-9:30am	Break
Live Oak/Cypress	9:30am-10:30am	<i>Riparian Plants of the Edwards Plateau</i>
		Jason Singhurst, Botanist/Ecologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Live Oak/Cypress	10:45am-11:30am	NPSOT State Board Meeting
Foyer	11:30am-12:30pm	Attendees pick up box lunches.
Foyer Staging Areas	12:30pm-5:00pm	Field Trips
Friday, October 5		
Spanish Oak	5:00pm-7:00pm	Silent Auction Open for Bidding
	6:00pm-7:00pm	Social Hour – Cash Bar
Live Oak/Cypress	7:00pm-9:00pm	Mexican Buffet Dinner with Entertainment to follow
Saturday, October 6		
Guadalupe	6:30am-8:00am	Continental Breakfast
Lobby	7:00am-10:30am	Registration and Check-in Open
Lobby		Speaker Check-in Open
Spanish Oak	7:00am-11:00am	Photo Contest & Flower Arrangement Contest Open for Delivery of Entries
Spanish Oak	7:00am-9:00pm	Silent Auction Open for Bidding
Spanish Oak	9:00am-6:00pm	Exhibits and Vendor Area open



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Live Oak/Cypress	8:00am-8:15am	Saturday Plenary Session Begins
		Announcements
Live Oak/Cypress	8:15am-9:15am	<i>Past, Present and Future Plant Species and Communities of the Edwards Plateau Region of Central Texas</i>
		Dr. O.W. Van Auken, Professor of Biology, University of Texas- San Antonio
	9:15am-9:30am	Break
Live Oak/Cypress	9:30am-10:30am	<i>Hydrogeology of the Texas Hill Country</i>
		William "Feather" Wilson, President, Strata Geological Services
	10:30am-10:45am	Break
Live Oak/Cypress	10:45am-11:45am	<i>Native Plants: Sustaining Biodiversity</i>
		Dr. Chip Taylor, Founder & Director of Monarch Watch; Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas
Spanish Oak	11:00am	Photos & Flower Arrangments Contest Entry is Closed
Live Oak/Cypress	12:00am-1:00pm	Lunch
Live Oak/Cypress	12:00noon-1pm	NPSOT Annual Meeting
Live Oak/Cypress	1:00pm-1:30pm	Chapter Leader's Meeting
Saturday, October 6		
	1:30pm-4:30pm	Break-out Sessions
	1:30pm-2:20pm	
	B1	Bill Lindemann, The Nature of the Texas Hill Country
	B2	<i>Rachel Cywinski, Native Xeriscaping for Water Conservation</i>
	B3	David Davidson, Accelerated Succession: KR Bluestem to Native Grass Restoration
	B4	Chapter Management Workshop – Cecil Carter, Image, Public Relations and NPSOT
	2:30pm-3:20pm	
	B5	Armand Hufault, Extreme Drought of 2010-2012 and its effects upon Texas – Native Plants with emphasis upon Native Plants of the Texas Hill Country
	B6	<i>David Mahler, Spicewood Ranch After 23 years of Restoration- What We Have Accomplished and Learned</i>
	B7	<i>Jim Stanley, Cedar – Myth and Management</i>
	B8	Chapter Management Workshop – Melissa Miller, Native Landscape Certification Program
Saturday, October 6		
	3:30pm-4:20pm	
	B9	Charlotte Reemts, Fire in oak-juniper woodlands: what happens after the smoke clears?
	B10	Steve Nolle, Riparian Plants of the Texas Hill Country – Their Functional Importance
	B11	Michael Warriner, Identifying, Managing, and Augmenting Resources for Native Bees
	B12	Chapter Management Workshop – Anne Adams, Kathy Saucier, John Siemssen, Deedy Wright, Ten Years and

		Beyond Being NICE!: A Panel Presentation
Spanish Oak	5:00pm	Photo & Flower Arrangement Contest Voting Closes
		Silent Auction Closes
Foyer	6:00pm-7:00pm	Social Hour – Cash Bar
Foyer	6:00pm	Silent Auction Check-out Begins
Spanish Oak	6:00pm	Exhibits and Vendor Area Closes
Live Oak/Cypress	7:00pm-9:00pm	Awards Banquet
		Photo & Flower Contest Winners Announced
Sunday, October 7		
Spanish Oak	8:00am-12noon	Exhibits and Vendor tear-down
	10:00am	Out-bound Field Trips Begin
		Please plan to arrive at the field trip site prior to 10am.

[Home](#)—[Student/Educator Rates](#)

Student/Educator Rates

Why are there "Scholarship" rates for students and educators?

In the furtherance of the Society's mission to promote research, conservation and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example, we are pleased to offer reduced "scholarship" registration fees for the Symposium to full-time students and educators of all levels. By educating our students, we will be creating our future leaders in the native plant movement. This all-inclusive package covers your meals, field trips, workshops and a copy of the proceedings on CD. The "scholarship" rates are generously underwritten by our member donors and grants from foundations and corporations.

If you qualify as a currently enrolled student or practicing educator, register for the symposium through our online process via the [Registration](#) link and choose the Student or Educator pricing. As verification of your enrollment status, students must email or fax a copy of their current transcripts to our state office for verification. Educators should download, complete and email or fax a copy of the [Educator Scholarship Application](#) to our state office for verification. Failure to complete this process will invalidate your "scholarship" pricing.

Full-time Student "Scholarship" Pricing \$50.00

Email a copy of your current unofficial transcripts to studentreg@npsot.org or fax to 866.527.4918.

Educator "Scholarship" Pricing \$75.00

Download, complete and email the [Educator Scholarship Application](#) to studentreg@npsot.org or fax to 866.527.4918.



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Silent Auction

Symposium 2012 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 the Kate Hillhouse Scholarship Fund, administered by the Native Plant Society of Texas. We are an equal opportunity organization, and donations to the Silent Auction are open to individuals, chapters, and businesses.

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 2012 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.

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.

Make plans now for your Silent Auction donation, and look forward for more information about how to donate your items to the Silent Auction at Symposium 2012!

[Download a Bid Form](#)



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Speakers

Symposium 2012 List of Speakers

Keynote Speakers: (scroll down for bios and presentation abstracts)

- **Donnie Frels** – Friday am
- **Jason Singhurst** – Friday am
- **Dr. Chip Taylor** – Saturday am
- **Dr. O.W. Van Auken** – Saturday am
- **Feather Wilson** – Saturday am

Break-out Session Speakers: (scroll down for bios and presentation abstracts)

- **Anne Adams, Kathy Saucier, John Stiemmen, Deedy Wright**
- **Cecil Carter**
- **Rachel Cywinski**
- **David L. Davidson**
- **Armand Hufault**
- **Bill Lindemann**
- **David Mahler**
- **Melissa Miller**
- **Steve Nelle**
- **Charlotte Reemts**
- **Jim Stanley**
- **Michael Warriner**

Keynote Speakers – Bios and Abstracts:

Donnie Frels

Biography:

- Grew up along the Texas coast at Rockport, Texas. Currently living and working near Hunt, Texas. Married with two children. Graduated Texas A&M University 1985: B.S. Wildlife Science
- 1985-1988: Wildlife Manager for San Jose Cattle Company, Aransas County, Texas. Responsible for planning and implementing wildlife habitat operations on the 32,000 acre private ranch owned by Bass family of Fort Worth.
- 1988-1991: Fish and Wildlife Technician, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Canyon, Texas. Conducted investigations of wildlife species and habitats within the 56 county Panhandle Regulatory District.
- 1991-1998: Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area, Tennessee Colony, Texas. Responsible for the management, maintenance, development and research projects on the 11,000 acre management area in East Texas.
- 1998-present: Project Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Edwards Plateau Ecosystems Management Project, Hunt, Texas. Supervisor responsible for daily operations, maintenance, management and research on four wildlife management areas in Central Texas (Kerr, Mason Mountain, and the Muse WMA's). Area Manager for the Kerr WMA and supervisor of the Donnie Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Facility.

Topic: "Wire and Fire: A Historical Perspective on Ecosystems Management in the Texas Hill Country"

The term ecosystems management is presently utilized throughout the conservation lexicon to represent a broad array of methodologies designed to produce a variety of desired products. Unfortunately, many biologists and range managers fail to fully understand the many variables, both natural and man-made, which influence this complex process through time. Although Leopold's tools of wildlife management are widely accepted, the use (or misuse) of these tools can lead to poorly managed and inefficient systems producing undesirable products. Often times, a manager's first response is to begin treating symptoms of the problem without identifying the actual cause. In order to fully realize the ecological potential of a site, managers must first understand the conditions and circumstances which led to its current state. Today, the Kerr Wildlife Management Area serves as a prime example of good range stewardship based on sound ecological principles. However, historical accounts reveal a vastly different scenario. This presentation will document the decisions, practices and tools responsible for the transformation of this property from native grassland savannah, to cedar brake, to a healthy ecosystem producing a diverse array of desirable products.

Jason Singhurst

Biography:

Jason Singhurst has served as a botanist/ecologist in Texas for the past 17 years for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Jason received a B.S. and M.S. from Stephen F. Austin State University. He has conducted field-oriented research on the vegetation ecology of the West Gulf Coastal Plain for the past 19 years. His expertise includes natural areas inventory, plant community ecology, plant taxonomy, and land management. He has described five plant species new to science that are endemic (restricted) to Texas. He has extensive field knowledge and experience with rare plant species in Texas. He has published over 70 scientific publications and in 2008 co-authored a book on "Rare Plants of Texas."

Topic: "An Overview of the Wetland Communities and Aquatic Flora of the Edwards' Plateau"

The Edwards' Plateau presents a wide array of diverse and unique wetland habitats that is not well studied or explored. In this presentation, I will review the geologic derivation and ecological conditions that supply these unique wetlands. I will provide you a landscape profile tour beginning at the headwater spring sources, making our way down perennial flowing creeks rivers, while intercepting several unique wetland communities along the way. I will discuss ecologically intact remnants and their associated flora that were once common place in this landscape. Finally, I will discuss some of the agencies and land trusts that are protecting these wetlands through wetland mitigation and conservation banking projects.

Dr. Chip Taylor

Biography:

Founder and Director of Monarch Watch; Professor Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

Trained as an insect ecologist, Chip Taylor has published papers on species assemblages, hybridization, reproductive biology, population dynamics and plant demographics and pollination. Starting in 1974, Chip Taylor established research sites and directed students studying Neotropical African honey bees (killer bees) in French Guiana, Venezuela, and Mexico. In 1992, as the bee research was coming to an end, Taylor founded Monarch Watch, an outreach program focused on education, research and conservation relative to



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monarch butterflies.

Through the last 20 years Monarch Watch has enlisted the help of volunteers to tag monarchs during the fall migration. This program has produced many new insights into the dynamics of the monarch migration.

Seven years ago, in recognition that habitats for monarchs are declining at a rate of 6000 acres a day in the United States, Monarch Watch created the Monarch Waystation program. The goal of this program is to inspire the public, schools and others to create habitats for monarch butterflies and to assist Monarch Watch in educating the public about the decline in resources for monarchs, pollinators and all wildlife that share the same habitats.

"I have been studying the effects of climate on monarch populations for several years and climate change really has me worried. Higher temperatures are likely to negatively affect monarch populations by reducing reproductive success and altering the distribution and abundances of milkweed species on which the monarchs depend."

Topic: "Native plants: Sustaining biodiversity"

The diversity of plant and animal life is largely the product of the interactions of pollinators and plants. The rise of the Angiosperms over 250 million years ago and their relationships with an increasingly diverse group of organisms that facilitated pollen transfer and therefore successful reproduction by the plants has given rise to at least 250,000 plant species. These plants in turn produce the fruits, nuts, berries, seeds and foliage that support over a million insect species, and the majority of our non-marine birds and mammals. By protecting and planting stands of native plants, Native Plant Societies sustain pollinators, keystone species, which are responsible for pollinating 70% of the vegetation in many natural communities. It follows that sustaining populations of native plants throughout Texas and the United States is absolutely necessary if we wish to maintain the wildlife that is dependent on these plants.

Dr. O. W. Van Auken

Biography:

Dr. Van Auken is a professor of Biology and Ecology at The University of Texas at San Antonio and has been at UTAS for 35 years. He received a B.S. degree in Biology from High Point College in North Carolina, an M.S. in Zoology at the University of Utah and stayed to complete his Ph.D. in Physiological Plant Ecology. He studied growth rates of salt tolerant phytoplankton. Upon graduation he came to Texas as an Assistant Professor at Texas State University. From there he moved to Southwest Research in San Antonio for five years before taking a position as a plant ecologist at UTSA.

He has worked with undergraduates, M.S. and Ph.D. students and published over one hundred papers in books and various journals including Ecology, Plant Ecology, Oecologia, the American Journal of Botany, the Canadian Journal of Microbiology, the Texas Journal of Science, the Southwestern Naturalist and others.

Dr. Van Auken's research interests are physiological plant ecology, especially gas exchange phenomena and species interactions. He has a broad background in biology and ecology including training in physiology, anatomy, and conservation biology and studies with a diverse array of organisms. He has had a number of research grants and contracts in various areas of biology and in many parts of the USA. This broadness of training has been an asset in the development of his biological thought, and has been essential for his work.

Dr. Van Auken is currently studying species interactions in temperate woodlands and grasslands in central Texas and the southwestern U.S. including both common and rare species. He is studying these species to understand interference or competition and its role in determining species distributions and community composition. He is also interested in the role of disturbances on community development and succession. These studies are contemplated to improve understanding of species interactions.

Topic: "Past, Present and Future Plant Species and Communities of the

Edwards Plateau Region of Central Texas"

The Edwards Plateau Region of central Texas is approximately five times as large as the state of New Jersey, but unfortunately its plants are less well known. The Edwards Plateau eco-region is quite diverse and is known as an area of high endemism. Vegetation types include woodlands, shrublands, savannas and grasslands. There is an east to west rainfall gradient and a south to north temperature gradient across the region. Mixed juniper, oak and mesquite woodlands are common. Deeper soils are cultivated while common soils are usually shallow, underlain by limestone and grazed. Central Texas plant communities have changed dramatically in time as have other communities worldwide. During the Pleistocene (approximately the past 2 million years), the climate of the Earth was much cooler. Roughly 11,000 to 15,000 years before the present (early Holocene) the Earth began to warm and the warming continues today. Climatic warming and concomitant deglaciation caused major changes in the distribution and occurrences of worldwide plant communities. Over this time frame, plant species and plant communities in central Texas changed considerably as well. Pine parkland was found in present day western Texas and central Texas grasslands and savannas. These early changes occurred without the influence of man or his domestic animals. However, 150 to 200 years ago, with the coming of Europeans to central Texas, the changes and rates of change of plant communities have been unparalleled. These recent changes do not seem to have been caused directly by deglaciation. They are not really plant invasions, as suggested by many, but are best considered encroachment, which is a movement of native plants from adjacent communities that have been in existence for a considerable time. The area covered by many central Texas woodlands has increased as grasslands and savannas have decreased. Species in these communities have changed as well. Specific causes seem to be constant high levels of domestic herbivory coupled to reduced amounts of light, fluffy fuel and a decrease in fire intensity and frequency. It is difficult to link projected future changes in climate and patterns of herbivory and fires to future plant community composition. However, examples will be presented and examined.

William "Feather" Wilson

Biography:

William Feathergill Wilson, PG 21, grew up on a Hill Country Ranch in Comal County. He received three degrees from the University of Texas at Austin (B.A.-English-'57, B.S. – Geology -'60, M.A. – Geology-'62) after graduating from New Braunfels High School. His experience includes petroleum geology, hydrogeology, professional writing, teaching, ranching and a few other things. He taught as an Adjunct Professor of Geology at the University of Texas at San Antonio and internationally for OGCI. Mr. Wilson worked as a frontier exploration geologist in 52 countries in positions that ranged from Geologist to Vice President with several major and large independent oil companies. He now resides on a small ranch near Tarpley, Texas in south-central Bandera County, Texas. He is a State of Texas Licensed Geologist, PG 21, and a State of Texas Licensed Real Estate Broker. He is the President and sole employee of Strata Geological Services, Inc. working as consultant across the State of Texas.

Topic: "Hydrogeology of the Texas Hill Country"

Groundwater and surface water in the Texas Hill Country is a pristine and scarce natural resource. All of the subsurface and surface water is associated in one way or another with a series of geologic units belonging to the Lower Cretaceous System that crops out and is buried beneath the Texas Hill Country. The presentation will review the aquifers and the movement of ground water in these aquifers. He will weave a picture of the social, historical and environmental impacts these aquifers will have upon the land, the people and the vegetation.

Break-out Session Speakers – Bios and Abstracts:

Anne Adams, Kathy Saucier, John Siemssen, Deedy Wright

Biographies:

Anne Adams – Boerne Chapter, NICE! Committee. After completing her master's degree in Botany, Anne worked for ten years in environmental consulting, conducting field studies in aquatic biology and terrestrial vegetation. Upon moving to Boerne in 1993, she volunteered at the Cibolo Nature Center, where she helped initiate the Citizen Science Research program. As a CNC staff member from 2006 to 2010, she was the data manager and trained volunteers in research protocols for Wildlife Field Research. In addition she has presented workshops on aquatic and riparian ecology. Anne's passion for native plants coincides with her interests in gardening, hiking, and general nature study. As a member of the Boerne Chapter, she has held the offices of Secretary and President, enjoys propagating plants for the annual plant sale, and has served on the NICE! committee since 2002.

Kathy Saucier – Trinity Forks Chapter, NICE! Co-chairman. Kathy Saucier is a graduate of Texas A&M in biomedical science. In the 90's, she served on the board of directors for the Elm Fork Nature Preserve Association in Carrollton and trained with Texas Parks & Wildlife as a Texas Wildscapes instructor. She has been a member of the Society for 20 years and has earned the Benny J. Simpson Fellows Award by fellow members in 2008. As an avid photographer, she has earned multiple 1st & 2nd place awards in the Charlene Barnard Memorial Award by the Amarillo Chapter. She has given programs on Nature Photography, Sharing Natives (helping members pot extra plants for the annual plant sale) and Caterpillar Gardening with Native Plants. She is also very active in the Trinity Forks Chapter annual spring plant sale coordinating member donations along with two consignment nurseries including introducing those growers to new native species.

John Siemssen – Lindheimer Chapter. John is a Past President of the Lindheimer Chapter (Comal County) and is also a Texas Master Naturalist. He has had a lifelong love of plants, but was not able to pursue it professionally, instead becoming a Chemical Engineer. When he retired in 2001, he finally was able to get back to his original interests, and continues to be active in the Society.

Deedy Wright – Guadalupe Chapter, NICE! coordinator. Deedy Wright is a life-long Texas gardener. Her particular interests are in native plants, xeriscape, and wildlife. She has been an active member of the Native Plant Society of Texas since 1993 and helped organize the Guadalupe County Chapter in 2007. She has completed the GoNativeU courses on growing and using native plants from the Johnson Wildflower Center and UT, and the landscape design study program sponsored by the National Garden Clubs and TAMU. In 2001, she became a certified Master Gardener. She is a Master Gardener propagation and vegetable specialist, conducting workshops for both Master Gardeners and the public and is active in the speakers' bureau of the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. A retired teacher, Deedy has taught adult continuing education classes on various gardening topics for both the Northeast and Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School Districts. In addition, she is an avid reader of gardening books and spends too much money on Amazon.com!

Topic: *“Ten Years and Beyond Being NICE!: A Panel Presentation”*

Celebrate ten years of Operation NICE! (Natives Instead of Common Exotics) and learn how to start and sustain a NICE! program from experienced and start-up chapters. Join panelists Deedy Wright (Guadalupe) and John Siemssen (Lindheimer) as they talk about combining chapter resources to co-create a NICE! program for 2012, and Anne Adams (Boerne) and Kathy Saucier (Trinity Forks) as they lend ten years (and more) of experience hosting NICE! Panelists will review successes, challenges and future opportunities for sustaining Operation NICE! You are encouraged to join the discussion after panelist presentations. Join in lively conversation, and learn how you can support NICE! for your community.

Cecil Carter

Biography:

Cecil Carter has been a management consultant to colleges and other non-profit organizations for the past 13 years. Cecil is on 6 different non-profit boards, including the Trinity Forks Chapter (TF). Cecil is the President of TF and has served as chapter Publicity Chairman and Program Chairman. He has been a Chief Information Officer of a public company, and he teaches Public Relations and Image Perception as a continuing education course at Murray State College. He has delivered over 500 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 where he taught public relations and other management related courses.

Topic: *“Image, Public Relations and the Native Plant Society of Texas”*

Perception is reality. What are people's perception of native plants, your chapter and the Society in general? What Public Relations [PR] seeks to do is change people's perceptions. Image and perception are important if we want to achieve our goals. This one goal in our strategic plan is what PR is all about:

“Advocate for the needs of native plants, native plant communities and their habitats with elected officials and other government officials.”

So, how do we change people's perception, strengthen our image, and gain support for our vision of the state? This workshop deals with *ideas and methods* used by PR pros over the years to change perceptions. The tools cost little and make a lasting impact. It is an interactive, hands on workshop designed to impart the maximum amount of knowledge into a shortest period of time. There will be a PowerPoint presentation and handouts for participants.

Cywinski, Rachel

Biography:

Rachel Cywinski grew up in arid west Texas, and is well aware of how precious water is. Rachel completed degrees in international business, business economics, logistics management, American Sign Language and secondary education at Baylor University, Palo Alto College, San Antonio College, and the University of the Incarnate Word. She is currently a doctoral candidate in mathematics education at University of the Incarnate Word; her dissertation research focuses upon reduction of mathematics anxiety among community college students in developmental mathematics courses. Since 2004, Rachel has continuously worked for the Alamo Community College District in numerous “temporary” assignments, teaching college mathematics and dual credit high school/college statistics and calculus. She is also a graduate research assistant at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Rachel's passion was soccer until 1997, when a tractor-trailer driver ran a red light and permanently disabled her. Since then, Rachel has been a persistent advocate for civil rights; and her passion has been native plants and gardening. She volunteers with the National Park Service, Texas Master Naturalists, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Native Plant Information Network, Invaders of Texas/Citizen Scientists, and community and environmental groups, and is active in a fellowship that uses American Sign Language as its primary language.

Rachel first joined the Native Plant Society of Texas during the time when members would

exchange seeds by mailing envelopes to each other. Although her dues have lapsed sometimes in between now and then while she was a student, she has always volunteered when possible, including serving as programming coordinator of the San Antonio chapter for 3 years. Rachel was one of the members who urged the Society to add a "lifetime" membership category so that her dues would never expire again!

Topic: "Native Plant Xeriscaping for Water Conservation"

Native. Xeriscape. Water-conserving. Over the years, our municipal governments in Texas have changed the preferred wording of their strategies to get us to stop wasting so much water, as they have dealt with the reality of a society that has not yet recognized the limit of our natural resources. No one in Texas can take water for granted now; and the lack/potential lack of drinking water is an impending global crisis.

Although for us, native plants have great value other than simply being "water-conserving" in the landscape, the ability to decrease landscape watering may be what first attracts other members of our community to get more familiar with them. As members of the Native Plant Society of Texas, being aware of some of the global issues that influence the selection of landscaping and agricultural plantings enables us to be a part of the global discussion, and help provide our communities with solutions. You do need to become an expert to participate in this discussion!

Here are some facts about the history and current state of water in our state, nation and world. There are many more resources where you can get more details, but this outline will provide you with enough to go to a water board meeting, a state convention, or an international discussion on conservation, and share your love of native plants as part of the global water crisis.

David L. Davidson

Biography:

Landowner in Kendall Co.; Scientist, retired; we have been restoring our 138 ac. property for 16 years.

Topic: "Accelerated Succession: KR Bluestem to Native Grass Restoration"

The invasive grass, KR Bluestem, has covered much of the Hill Country due to overgrazing, drought, and this grass being spread by many sources. Wildlife do not want to use KR, particularly grassland bird species. To increase biodiversity, we have been seeking methods to restore native grasses to areas dominated by KR. A protocol has been developed that does, in fact, replace KR with native grasses that we call "Accelerated Succession." Measurement of soil biotics (the numbers of bacteria, fungi, and genera of nematodes) indicates that the soil conditions present in areas where KR was killed and restored by this process are rapidly (a year or so) transformed much closer to those conditions characteristic of a mature prairie, and this has prevented the reinvasion of these areas by KR. To date, we only have data for several years, and long-term results are necessary to determine if the trends seen will continue. Despite the drought of 2011, results are encouraging.

Armand Hufault

Biography:

- Retired IBM Engineer.
- MSEE University of Vermont.
- Studying Central Texas native plants since 1991.
- Owner operator of Armand Hufault's Salvias and Perennials (specializing in Central Texas Native Plants).
- Founder and Member of Williamson County Chapter.
- Past member, docent, and lecturer at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center.
- Past Texas Native Plant Landscaper

Topic: "Extreme Drought of 2010-2012 and its effects upon Texas Native Plants with emphasis upon Native Plants of the Texas Hill Country"

Observations were made of Texas Native plants of the Texas Hill Country and their reaction to extreme drought during and after the extreme drought of 2010-2012. Plant attributes, environment and soil characteristics were identified that made the observed plants extreme drought resistant.

Bill Lindemann

Biography:

- Born: October 12, 1937, Gonzales County, Texas
- Graduated Gonzales High School in 1955
- University of Texas Graduate (BS-60, MA-63) in geology
- Married for 51 years: two children, three grandchildren
- Worked for 32 years with Exxon as Exploration Geologist
- Explored for Oil and Gas, Uranium, Coal, Synthetic Fuels, and Copper
- Lived in Australia for three years; worked extensively in Indonesia, Thailand, China and other Far East countries.
- Retired in 1994 to Fredericksburg
- Have written a weekly birding column in the Fredericksburg Standard Radio-Post and the Kerrville Daily Times since 1997; currently only writing for the Kerrville Daily Times
- Former President of the Native Plant Society of Texas (2001 and 2006)
- Awarded the Nancy Benedict Memorial Award by the Native Plant Society of Texas (10/03) for an act of Conservation/Public Service for establishing the Fredericksburg
- Nature Center and the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center organization
- Awarded the Benny J. Simpson Fellows Award by the Native Plant Society of Texas (10/06) for service by a member for the enrichment of the society
- President of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center (FFNC currently operating nature trails in Lady Bird Johnson City Park, Fredericksburg)
- President of the Hill Country Land Trust.
- Also serves on the Board of Directors for the Hill Country Historical Foundation.
- Received a "Star of Texas" award by the Gillespie County Historical Society in 2006 for his work in creating the Fredericksburg Nature Center and for the preservation of the natural and historical heritage of the Texas Hill Country
- Co-chair of the "Wings Over the Hills" nature festival committee
- 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
- Current interest: Promoting historical and natural preservation in the Texas Hill Country through education, outreach and example.

Topic: "The Nature of the Texas Hill Country"

This presentation will explore the evolution of the Texas Hill Country region beginning over a billion and one-half years ago to the present. What is so special about this region? In addition to the geological history, the talk will cover the past and present inhabitants, the changes that have occurred since settlement, and what the future might hold. The Edwards Plateau, which includes the Hill Country, is one of the most diverse biological regions on the planet. Although it covers only 17 per cent of the state, more than 40 per cent of the flora and 60 per cent of the birds are found here. Over 100 million bats call the Hill Country home during the summer months. Very colorful insects, including butterflies and dragonflies also call this region home. The presentation will conclude with a brief discussion regarding stewardship of our land and natural resources.

David Mahler

Biography:

David Mahler is the ecologist for Environmental Survey Consulting, a company that specializes in site analysis, seed harvesting, habitat restoration, restoration landscaping, naturalistic rockwork, wetland and pond construction, and park and trail design and construction. He has been a pioneer in site-specific restoration in Central Texas since initiating restoration projects at Wild Basin Preserve in 1982 while he was their first Executive Director. David has developed techniques and equipment for harvesting and utilizing high diversity seed mixes, and has designed and installed several habitat display areas at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. He attended the first Native Plant Society meeting in Denton instigated in part by Carroll Abbott and has been a member since. He is a founding board member of the Society for Ecological Restoration International.

Topic: “Spicewood Ranch After 23 years of Restoration- What We Have Accomplished and Learned”

When restoration on the 1000 acre Spicewood Ranch started in 1989, the vegetation was typical of much of the Texas Hill Country. Most of the palatable native grass species were gone or greatly reduced and KR bluestem dominated, the surviving forb community was reduced to unpalatable species such as Mexican Hat and Horsemint, and the woody species were limited to a small portion of the original community including Live Oak, Agarita and Texas Persimmon, which can survive 100 years of heavy sheep, goat and deer browse.

Restoration practices, including controlled burns, cedar removal, deer reduction, limited cattle grazing, high fencing, seeding, exotic species control, deer exclosures for research and exotic species management have significantly altered the ranch habitats toward their pre- European conditions. Successful reestablishment of woody species and perennial forbs has been dependent on developing a sequence for their reintroduction, starting with those that are only slightly palatable to the reduced deer population, and then gradually adding more palatable species as the increase of available forage allows. Locally harvested seed is often used for these reintroductions, with planting sometimes starting within exclosures to increase available seed quantities.

Results of the research, including tables of the sequence of palatability and species reintroduction, will be provided. Progress on the ranch over the 23 years has been well documented in photos, which are available for a presentation.

Melissa Miller**Biography:**

Melissa Miller is a former President of the San Antonio Chapter and former President of the state organization. Melissa is a non-profit consultant, grant writer and landscape designer who co-founded the NLCP program and currently serves as chairperson for the program.

Topic: “Certified Native Landscape Professional Program”

A preview of the Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) will be provided. The NLCP program teaches the identification of Texas natives, their place in the local ecosystem and which conditions will allow them to thrive in a landscape. With each level, knowledge of conservation, ecosystem assessment, wildlife benefits, restoration value, appropriateness of plants for landscapes and taxonomy increases.

NLCP is aimed at:

Professional Landscapers
Landscape Architects and Designers
Urban Developers, Surveyors
Community Garden & Park Employees
Homeowners
Environmental Volunteers
Native Plant Society and Master Naturalist Members

The program consists of 4 levels of expertise through the use of classes and field study. Those who earn and maintain their Level 4 certification will be listed on the San Antonio Chapter website as volunteers who can educate the public and provide services such as field identification and habitat assessment, restoration and conservation of wild areas, landscape use advice and presentations.

This program, chaired by Melissa Miller, was developed and is sponsored by: Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Alamo Master Naturalists, City of San Antonio, and Native Plant Society of Texas, Boerne and San Antonio Chapters

Steve Nelle**Biography:**

Steve Nelle is a recently retired Wildlife Biologist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service where he served for 35 years in Central Texas, South Texas and West Texas. His main job has been to assist private landowners plan and carry out comprehensive range-wildlife-watershed management on ranches. In the last 12 years, he has taken a special interest in creeks and rivers and riparian areas. He says that although Texans love their creeks and rivers, most people do not really understand much about them. Nelle has received training from some of the very best riparian experts in the country and has been trying to bring the message of healthy functional creeks to Texas landowners and policy makers. He has learned that a functional riparian area provides great benefits not only to the landowner but to everyone downstream. As the population of Texas continues to grow, and more demands are placed on creeks, rivers and the finite water supply, landowners and citizens alike need to understand how to protect and restore riparian areas for the benefit of all Texans. Nelle is a graduate of Texas Tech where he studied Range and Wildlife Management. He resides in San Angelo.

Topic: “Riparian Plants of the Texas Hill Country – Their Functional Importance”

Riparian areas comprise only about one to three percent of the total landscape, yet their contributions to maintaining healthy creeks and rivers are beyond measure. Likewise, the specialized plants that occupy these narrow riparian areas are of disproportionately great importance. Riparian plant communities provide the following functional attributes: dissipate the energy of floodwaters; reduce the velocity and erosive forces of floodwaters; help stabilize banks and maintain proper channel dimensions; trap and stabilize sediment in the floodplain; increase organic matter content of riparian soil. When these functional attributes are intact, the riparian area provides the following benefits: floodwater retention; recharge of shallow alluvial aquifers; storage of water in the “riparian sponge;” and sustenance of base flow. Landowners who understand the vital role of healthy riparian vegetation are in a better position to help insure the proper management and stewardship of these areas for the benefit of all Texans.

Charlotte Reemts**Biography:**

Charlotte Reemts has been working for The Nature Conservancy for more than 7 years. She studies Identifying, Managing, and Augmenting Resources for Native Bees

Topic: “Fire in oak-juniper woodlands: what happens after the smoke clears?”

Wildfires are a part of the Texan landscape, and many species are well adapted to surviving

them. In 1996, a wildfire burned more than 10000 acres of oak-juniper woodlands on Fort Hood. A second wildfire in 2009 re-burned part of the area. The vegetation recovery after the fires was rapid. Most of the woody plants found in unburned woodlands are present after the fires, but the vegetation structure is very different, making the areas excellent habitat for the endangered black-capped vireo (at least temporarily). Ashe juniper, the most common species in unburned woodlands and a crucial habitat component for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler, is still almost completely absent from the burned areas. I will discuss what the fires can teach us about the ecological history of the Edwards Plateau and how to balance the needs of birds with varying habitat requirements.

Jim Stanley

Biography:

Jim Stanley grew up in the High Plains of West Texas. After a career as a chemist in both academia and industry, he retired, with his wife Priscilla, to Kerrville in 2000. Jim and Priscilla were in the first class of the Hill Country Chapter in 2002. Jim organized the Land Management Assistance Program of the Chapter in 2004 which has now aided over 300 landowners living on over 25,000 acres. He served 3 years as Chapter president. He is the author of "Hill Country Landowner's Guide" published by Texas A & M Press in 2009, and for the past 2 years has written the weekly column, "Hill Country Naturalist", for the Kerrville Daily Times.

Topic: "Cedar: Myth and Management"

What the Hill Country looked like before settlement by European man will be explained, in addition to what happened as a consequence of settlement and how that relates to cedar (Ashe Juniper). The characteristics of cedar, including rainwater interception will be discussed as well as what will happen if we "Let nature take its course". Finally, the "Do's and Don'ts" of cedar management in the Edwards Plateau will be discussed.

Warriner, Michael

Biography:

Michael Warriner is the invertebrate biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. A native of Arkansas, he has worked on issues related to bumblebee conservation since 2005.

Topic: "Identifying, Managing, and Augmenting Resources for Native Bees"

Several hundred native bee species occur across the Edwards Plateau, some occurring nowhere else in Texas. These bees represent the most important pollinators of native plants in this eco-region, playing critical roles in the maintenance of many of the region's plant communities. Despite their profound ecological influence, native bees have largely received little to no consideration as far as habitat management or restoration is concerned. Native bees have two very basic needs, food in the form of nectar and pollen from flowers and suitable nesting sites. By meeting one or both of these needs, landowners and home gardeners can make real contributions to native bee conservation. Steps that can be taken to identify, manage, and augment existing native bee resources will be discussed.

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Thursday, Oct 4 – Sunday, Oct 7
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