



A Meander Through the Native Plant Communities of the San Antonio River Basin

The San Antonio River emerges from the Blue Hole north of downtown in a wooded 53-acre nature sanctuary. The river, flowing from a riparian area of the Blackland Prairie, has given life to indigenous peoples of the San Antonio region since before the arrival of European explorers. South of downtown, the river passes near four of the Spanish Colonial Missions through the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project, the largest urban ecological restoration project in the United States. From there, it runs through the Post Oak Savannah portion of the East Central Texas Plains on its way to the Gulf of Mexico.

The symposium presentations and field trips will explore the use of native plant by inhabitants of San Antonio River system from the indigenous to the present; the restoration of the Mission Reach; plant-based low impact development to slow storm water runoff and enhance water quality; and the transition of the plant communities of the Blackland Prairie to the surrounding ecoregions along the San Antonio River and tributaries with topics related to habitat improvement for butterflies, pollinators and fauna in these landscapes.

Underwriting support is welcomed. In an effort to attract more students and educators, the Society will once again offer scholarships to qualified applicants. Supporting the attendance of educators and students (our future members!) ensures the future of the Society and the vitality of our mission statement. When renewing your membership, please consider making a small donation to support the symposium. Your gracious donations will help meet our goal of educating future native plant lovers and leaders. If you work or have worked for a corporation that will match your non-profit donation, then please remember to exercise that option and double your giving! We are also actively pursuing financial underwriting from foundations and corporations or in-kind donations of items or services. Do you know of someone that we should contact? Please get in touch with Pam Middleton, Symposium Co-Chair, at state@npsot.org. All referrals are welcome!

Book accommodations now. The Embassy Suites room block is now full. Got to our accommodations page below, to find other hotels in the area.

Click [here](#) for hotel information.



2018 Fall Symposium
October 18-21, 2018
Embassy Suites San Antonio
Brooks Hotel & Spa
7610 South New Braunfels

- A Meander Through the Native Plant Communities of the San Antonio River Basin
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Volunteer Opportunities

We need some friendly faces to welcome visitors from other areas of our state to San Antonio and to staff various volunteer positions before and during the symposium. If you will be attending or live in the San Antonio area and would like to volunteer a few hours of your time to help the symposium run smoothly, [click here](#) and sign up.

The volunteer sign up process is quick and easy to do from your laptop, tablet or smartphone. You will receive an email confirmation once you have completed the process (usually received instantaneously, but occasionally there may be a several hour delay). Be sure to click on the final green button reading "Save and Done" or you will not have reserved your volunteer spot. Two days prior to your shift, you will receive an email reminder. You can go back into the above link at any time to check on or change your commitment.

You may want to check back from time to time as additional volunteer opportunities may be added or formerly "full" spots may reopen. If you are not registered to attend the symposium, you can still volunteer for one of these spots if you have a few hours of availability.

Thank you for helping us make the 2018 symposium a success!



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[Home](#) → [Registration](#)

Registration

Online registration is now closed. You may register on-site.

Before clicking on the registration link, please read the field trip and break-out session descriptions and make your choices. There is limited information on the registration page due to the restraints of the program. You will find the registration link at the bottom of the page.

[Thursday Field Trips](#)

[Friday Field Trips](#)

[Saturday Break-out Sessions](#)

[Sunday Field Trips](#)

- Join NPSOT and get member pricing. [Click here](#) to join.
- Register before September 28th and get the best pricing.

Symposium Packages	Price
NPSOT Members Full Event Package <i>Meals (excl. Friday Dinner), Banquet, Speakers, Field Trips, & Breakout Sessions</i>	\$190 - After Oct 3 \$240
Non-Members Full Event Package <i>Meals (excl. Friday Dinner), Banquet, Speakers, Field Trips, & Breakout Sessions</i>	\$240 - After Oct 3 \$270
NPSOT Members Friday Only Package <i>Breakfast, Lunch, Speakers & Field Trips</i>	\$85
Non-Members Friday Only Package <i>Breakfast, Lunch, Speakers & Field Trips</i>	\$135
NPSOT Members Saturday Only Package <i>Breakfast, Lunch, Speakers & Break-out Sessions</i>	\$85
Non-Members Saturday Only Package <i>Breakfast, Lunch, Speakers & Break-out Sessions</i>	\$135
NPSOT Members Friday & Saturday Only Package <i>Breakfasts, Lunches, Speakers, Field Trips & Break-out Sessions</i>	\$170
Non-Members Friday & Saturday Only Package <i>Breakfasts, Lunches, Speakers, Field Trips & Break-out Sessions</i>	\$220

Special Student & Educator Pricing

Special Symposium Packages	Price
Educator Package <i>Meals (excluding Friday Dinner), Banquet, Speakers, Field Trips, & Breakout Sessions</i> <i>To qualify for this package fill out educator form and email to state@npsot.org</i>	\$75
Student Package <i>Meals (excluding Friday Dinner), Banquet, Speakers, Field Trips, & Breakout Sessions</i> <i>To qualify for this package email current unofficial transcripts to state@npsot.org</i>	\$50



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Accommodations

**The Embassy Suites room block is now full.
Please scroll down for information about other hotels
in the area.**

The 2018 annual symposium and members' meeting will be held on October 18-21 at:

**Embassy Suites Brooks Hotel & Spa
7610 South New Braunfels
San Antonio, Texas**

Our room block is now full, but rooms are still available at the hotel at a higher rate.

All rooms are suites and include:

- Wi-fi
- Microwave, coffeemaker and mini-fridge
- In-room coffee and tea
- Free made-to-order breakfast
- Complimentary Evening Reception featuring free drinks and snacks
- On-site Full Service Restaurant

Book hotel reservations by calling 800.445.8667.

Other hotels in the area:

These hotels do not have rooms blocks

Fairfield Inn & Suites, Brooks City Base	210.293.7400
Hampton Inn & Suites, Brooks City Base	210.534.1000
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, Brooks City Base	877.410.6667
La Quinta Inn & Suites, Brooks City Base	210.337.7171
Quality Inn & Suites, Brooks City Base	888.828.3931

Campgrounds in the area:

Green Lake RV Resort	210.467.9178
Traveler's World RV Resort	210.532.8310



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Plenary Speakers

- **Gregg Eckhardt, The San Antonio River: History, Culture, and Lessons for Landscapes** – 8:15AM Friday
- **Julia Murphy and Laurie Brown, San Antonio and the Mayors' Monarch Pledge** – 9:15AM Friday
- **Lee Marlowe, Urban Habitat Restoration Success Stories from the San Antonio River** – 10:15AM Friday
- **Sky Jones-Lewey, Remarkable Riparian vs *Arundo donax*, Implementing Targeted Control and Educating People** – 8:15AM Saturday
- **Forrest Smith, South Texas Natives Project and Native Plant Restoration in the Eagle Ford Shale: Lessons Learned, and a Model to Build On** – 9:15AM Saturday
- **Pat Merkord, Saving Texas Native Prairies and Restoring Prairies of the San Antonio River Watershed** – 10:15AM Saturday
- **Gail Gallegos, Planting the Seeds, Engaging Communities: People Need Nature and Nature Needs People** – 6:30PM Saturday



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Speakers' Biographies and Presentation Abstracts:

Welcome to San Antonio from Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff

About Judge Nelson Wolff

Nelson Wolff has represented Bexar County in various political offices. He served in the Texas House of Representatives, in the Texas Senate, and the San Antonio City Council as Mayor. He currently serves as Bexar County Judge, a position he was appointed to in 2001 and has since been elected to four times, most recently in November 2014. He is only the second person in more than a century to serve as both Mayor of San Antonio and Bexar County Judge. Together, Judge Wolff and his wife Tracy, President of the Hidalgo Foundation, have six children and seven grandchildren.

Friday 8:15 AM – Gregg Eckhardt

The San Antonio River: History, Culture, and Lessons for Landscapes

For at least 12,000 years, the San Antonio River has offered both physical and spiritual sustenance to residents and travelers. There is no other river like it on Earth, and the history of it all reads like a love story. Gregg Eckhardt will draw from his archive of rare and historical documents to outline its unique and colorful history from prehistoric times to the modern day, with insights on what it can teach us about sustainable landscape and water resource management.

About Gregg Eckhardt, San Antonio Water Systems

Gregg is an environmental scientist with 29 years of experience in environmental modeling and analysis, water resource planning and development, state and federal permitting, and water treatment. He is known as The Nerd King of South Texas Water History. As Senior Analyst for the San Antonio Water System, he is involved in the planning, operations, and management of the city's water supply and treatment systems.

Friday 9:15 AM – Julia Murphy and Laurie Brown

San Antonio and the Mayors' Monarch Pledge

The City of San Antonio was the first city in the nation to become a Monarch Champion City as part of the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge. To ensure success, the Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative, a partnership of area agencies, nonprofits and individuals, was formed to enhance habitat for pollinating insects and to educate and encourage the greater community to support this initiative. The Monarch butterfly is the state insect of Texas and migrates through our region twice annually. This species and other beneficial insects need native habitat to rest, refuel and lay eggs for the next generation. Due to an alarming population decline, the Monarch has emerged as an ambassador species, bringing awareness to the fragility of natural ecosystems and the need for urban support. This presentation will focus on the ways public and private stakeholders have worked together to bring awareness to natural resource conservation.

About Julia Murphy, Sustainable Special Projects Manager, San Antonio Office of Sustainability

Julia is the Sustainable Special Projects Manager for the City of San Antonio's Office of Sustainability. A certified community and regional planner, Julia has worked on numerous natural resource conservation initiatives in the Texas Hill Country. Signature projects

include coordinating preservation and adaptive reuse of historic Herff Farm on the banks of Cibolo Creek, land conservation over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone, and implementing bike sharing along the San Antonio River. A graduate of the University of Texas, Julia serves on the Cibolo Conservancy board, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and Hill Country Alliance.

About Laurie Brown, Education Manager for Volunteers and Guest Encounters, San Antonio Zoo

Laurie is the Education Manager for Volunteers and Guest Encounters at the San Antonio Zoo. A self-described “bug nerd,” Laurie loves people, animals, plants, fungi and anything related to science or being outside. She manages the zoo’s volunteer programs, entomological department, and the Caterpillar Flight School, a butterfly garden and habitat exhibit. The San Antonio Zoo is an active contributor to monarch conservation and the Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative. The Zoo participates in monarch conservation through Monarch Joint Venture in many citizen science, education outreach, festivals and conservation programs, habitat restoration programs and education outreach programs.

Friday 10:15 AM – Lee Marlowe

Urban Habitat Restoration Success Stories from the San Antonio River

Native plant community restoration comes in all shapes and sizes. It can be simple or complex, elementary or extraordinary. It can be neat and tidy or wild and woolly... there are no rules and no limits. Restoring native plants is a fundamental part of restoring functioning ecosystems and ensuring the long term survival of species on the planet. Native plants provide multiple benefits including aesthetic beauty, the ability to improve water quality, resiliency to disturbances and provision of wildlife habitat. A variety of success stories from native plant restoration efforts in the San Antonio River Watershed will be shared.

About Lee Marlowe, Sustainable Landscape Ecologist, San Antonio River Authority

Lee is a restoration ecologist with over 18 years of professional experience working in the field of ecological restoration and natural resource management including sustainable landscape practices and applications for improved ecological functions. Her expertise includes the use of native plants to provide wildlife habitat, water quality benefits, bank/site stabilization and aesthetic beauty in landscapes of all sizes.

Saturday 8:15 AM – Sky Jones-Lewey

Remarkable Riparian vs *Arundo donax*, Implementing Targeted Control and Educating People

Beginning in 2010, an informed community of riparian landowners along the upper Nueces River, sounded the alarm and helped initiate a strategic initiative against the highly invasive, non-native grass, *Arundo donax*. The Nueces River Authority has lead the program, called Pull-Kill-Plant, to teach people not to cut, mow or burn the Arundo plant, but instead to work with their neighbors to thoughtfully control it and recognize and restore native riparian plants. The program involves working together with common understanding, pulling out new sprouts by hand, applying herbicide to some giant Arundo plants, planting natives and appreciating the natural riparian recovery process. With riparian knowledge, the Authority’s guidance and Texas Parks and Wildlife’s financial support the remarkable native riparian plants are winning.

About Sky Jones-Lewey, Education and Resource Protection Director, Nueces River Authority

Sky is a natural resource community builder. She works to educate people and build understanding for landscape-scale resource management and protection along rivers. For the Nueces River Authority she has created, led and implemented on-the-ground programs to restore riparian health. Sky is largely responsible for NRA’s education and resource protection activities throughout its 22 county jurisdiction. Her work to educate Nueces landowners was recognized in 2014 when she was named a Lone Star Land Steward for her riparian conservation efforts.

Saturday 9:15 AM – Forrest Smith

South Texas Natives Project and Native Plant Restoration in the Eagle Ford Shale: Lessons Learned, and a Model to Build On

The Eagle Ford Shale (EFS) was a globally significant oil and gas find that has transformed portions of South Texas both economically and ecologically. The impacts of the EFS development on native plant communities are many, and native habitat restoration techniques, including the use of native seeds in this region, were poorly studied when the EFS began. South Texas Natives has worked to determine the best methods for EFS Restoration, and has also worked tirelessly to educate all sectors on the importance of native plant conservation in the EFS region. While challenges remain, EFS restoration results achieved to date have had positive impacts on native seed production and native habitat restoration for South Texas as whole. Restoration in this region will continue for decades to come, and STN’s work in the EFS is already being used as a model for other shale oil and gas plays where large scale natural habitat restoration is desired.

About Forrest S. Smith, Dan L Duncan Endowed Director,

**Texas Native Seeds Program, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute,
Texas A&M University-Kingsville**

Forrest is a 7th generation Texan, born and raised near Mullin. Since 2001 he has worked with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, beginning as the first student technician for the South Texas Natives Project. After assuming leadership of STN in 2008, in 2011 Forrest worked to expand the restoration and conservation activities of CKWRI to a statewide scale. Today, Forrest works from Austin, and leads a network of 6 cooperative native seed development initiatives working across Texas. Accomplishments include work resulting in over 35 native seed releases used for restoration of tens of thousands of acres in Texas each year.

Saturday 10:15 AM – Pat Merkord

**Saving Texas Native Prairies and Restoring Prairies of the
San Antonio River Watershed**

The Native Prairie Association of Texas has been working to conserve and restore native prairies in Texas since the 1980's. This presentation will cover the significance of native prairies, the reasons these prairies should be restored, and the benefits of prairie conservation to people and the plants and animals that live and depend on these habitats. Rare and Indicator plant species of the prairie will be highlighted. The efforts to convert a family farm to native prairie within the San Antonio River watershed in Wilson County will be highlighted. The story of how the Kirchoff Family Farm began with a conservation easement and pulled together many partners to make the transition a success will be told. The importance that community engagement and education play in any prairie conservation effort and how these elements have been used in the San Antonio area and other areas statewide will be emphasized.

About Pat Merkord, Native Prairie Association of Texas

Pat Merkord has been with the Native Prairies Association of Texas since 2006 as Secretary and President of the Board, and as Executive Director from 2013 to 2018. She has been a Board Director for The Coastal Prairie Partnership since 2011. Pat is an Austin native but currently lives in Conroe, Texas. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M Kingsville and Master's degree in Biology from Texas State University. Formerly a biology and chemistry teacher, she retired from teaching and started Bluestem Environmental Consultants, a biological consulting business, which focuses on wildlife management and restoration plans.

Saturday 6:30 PM – Gail Gallegos

**Planting the Seeds, Engaging Communities: People Need Nature and Nature
Needs People**

In 1910, 24% of Texans lived in urban areas. By 2010, 85% of Texans lived in urban areas. It is in cities that our innovative technological advances are striving to improve our lives with high-speed connectivity and modern conveniences. On the surface we are more connected and living in closer proximity than ever before. But in many ways we have created obstacles between ourselves and nature. We are a part of nature. Nature is essential to us and we are vital to nature. Learn about the progress Texas communities, partner organizations, and forward thinking governments have been making through relationship building and cooperative projects over the last two decades. Hear examples that you can take back to your local community to 'cast the net wider' on connecting people to nature and empowering them to protect and preserve the natural environment that sustains us all. Only together can we inspire action.

About Gail Gallegos

Gail is a native ecologist with 18 years' experience in South Central Texas land management, conservation & restoration. She spent her youth exploring the unspoiled hill country, driving her commitment to protect our diverse, natural ecosystem and promote environmental stewardship. She has an extensive history with natural area oversight, land conservation, and volunteer projects. Gail received the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration's 2015 "Excellence in Ecological Restoration Award" for exemplary and lasting contributions to maintaining, restoring, and improving San Antonio's natural areas. It is her passion to connect people to nature, engaging them to value and take action for nature.

NPSOT Grant Recipient Presentations

- **Marion Donald** – 11:00AM Saturday
- **Seth Hamby** – 11:15AM Saturday

2017 Ann Miller Gonzales Research Grant Recipient Presentation – Marion Donald

Nectar Microbes of Texas Wildflowers

Floral nectar – the sugar-rich liquid produced by flowers to attract pollinators – is home to a poorly characterized collection of microorganisms – the floral microbiome. Worldwide, interest in characterizing and understanding these microbial communities is growing. These microbes (e.g., yeasts and bacteria) are introduced to the flower's nectar during pollinator visitation. Previous work in the United States and Europe has revealed that these microbes can affect pollinator preference and plant reproduction. Current work focuses on three native Texan plants – Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja indivisa*), Lemon beebalm (*Monarda citriodora*), and Winecup (*Callirhoe involucrata*) – and serves as a first step in characterizing the Texan floral microbiome. We find that these flowers host commonly described nectar microbes. Nectar samples are being collected from sites around Houston, Austin, and San Antonio. Future work will continue characterizing nectar microbiomes to determine how the environment may shape them and how they in turn may affect pollination.

About Marion Donald

Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Marion has spent the past eight years in Texas. She holds a B.S. from Rice University and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, also at Rice University. Marion's undergraduate research at Rice focused on the population dynamics of the native winter bent grass (sometimes called ticklegrass) under altered rainfall regimes. Her graduate research addresses how environmental change and floral species shape nectar microbiomes – the communities of microorganisms found in a flower's nectar. She has conducted research locally in Texas, as well as in Costa Rica.

2018 Ann Miller Gonzales Research Grant Recipient – Seth Hamby

Patterns of Soil Preference and Regional Genetic Diversity of the Texas Endemic Plant, *Dalea reverchonii* (Fabaceae) Seth Hamby¹, Russel Pfau¹, Darrel Murray¹, Allan Nelson¹, Jeffrey Brady², ¹Tarleton State University, ²Texas A&M Agrilife Research

Dalea reverchonii (S. Watson) Shinnery, known as Comanche Peak prairie clover, is a globally and state imperiled endemic plant with a conservation rank of G2S2, having a high-risk of extinction due to a small number of populations, a narrow range, marked declines, and habitat loss. Because of its conservation designation, *D. reverchonii* is a prime candidate for ecological and molecular population studies. The purpose of this study is to inform conservation and restoration of the species. In an effort to determine which soil physiochemical properties are most important for presence, growth, and abundance of *D. reverchonii* in 4 distinct sub-populations, a comparison of physiochemical properties of soil with morphological characteristics of plants was conducted. A double digest restriction site associated DNA sequencing (ddRADseq) was performed to measure levels of regional genetic diversity of *D. reverchonii* at the population and species level and to measure population sub-structuring (divergence).

About Seth Hamby

Seth grew up in rural South Carolina where his appreciation of plants first blossomed. He received a baccalaureate from Tarleton State University in Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences. While at Tarleton, Seth created the Bosque River Nature Center, which boasts an all-Texas-native pollinator garden and prairie. Seth also founded the Prairie Oaks Master Naturalist chapter, where a partnership with Tarleton has allowed the offering of TXMN training for college credit, a first in Texas. Seth is working towards a Master's degree in Agriculture and Natural Resource Science at Tarleton with plans to pursue a Ph.D. of Botany at Oregon State.



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Field Trips – Thursday, Friday & Sunday



2018 Symposium Field Trip Overview

Field trips will be offered on three days. Thursday afternoon field trips are near routes for travelers driving to San Antonio or those who live near San Antonio. Friday afternoon field trips are near the Symposium conference site and reinforce the Symposium theme. Sunday morning field trips are for travelers returning home or local attendees.

Many field trips are offered on several days to allow flexibility in which field trips you can take. Most field trips have a guided tour at a specific time, but some trips are listed as self-guided. We suggest you pick your Friday field trip first.

Map locating all the field trips:



1. This map is "Layered" by day – Check one or more dates on left side.
2. Select : "more" at the bottom of each day's list for entire list of that day's trips.
3. Zoom in or out (+ or -) to see more distant trips or separate local trips.
4. Click on a site number to see details and Google Map address.

To access map, [click here](#)

Google Maps has been used to determine locations and directions to our field trips. We have "tested" the directions using Google Maps on a PC and the Google Maps App on smartphones. Use the specific destination given, e.g. "Acequia Park Parking Lot", not "Acequia Park" (which might show up before searching).

ADA accessibility of field sites vary and are noted in each description.

Guided Tours must be reserved on a "first come, first served" basis as part of the registration process.

There are many "links" to websites, maps, etc. in the trip descriptions. These links should appear in **bold** and **blue**, e.g. [Field Trip Access Map](#) Left-click anywhere on the Blue link and it should take you to the site.

Updated trip information and maps for Thursday's trips will be e-mailed to you the week before the symposium. Information on Friday and Sunday trips will be provided in your Welcome Packet at registration.

Each day's field trips are described in detail on a separate web page. Click on a link below to transfer to the day's page, or use the Field Trips menu on the left.

[Thursday, October 18th Field Trips](#)

[Friday, October 19th Field Trips](#)

[Sunday, October 21st Field Trips](#)

Thursday – October 18th

T-01: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center – Self guided (**Guided Tour Cancelled**)

T-02: San Antonio Botanical Garden Guided Tour or Self – Guided

T-03: Palmetto State Park Guided Tour

T-04: Canyon Lake Gorge Tours – Two tours, A & B

T-05: Warbler Woods Guided Plant & Bird Tour

T-06: Kronkosky State Natural Area – Guided Tour (**Cancelled due to weather**)

T-07: Schumann Arboretum Self-Guided Tour (**Cancelled due to weather**)



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I-08: I-35 Rest Stop – Southbound Bell Co.
T-09: Natives of Texas Nursery – Staff Guided Visit
T-10: Medina Garden Nursery – Staff Guided Visit

Friday – October 19th

F-01: Blue Hole/Headwaters Sanctuary Guided Tours
F-02: Confluence Park Guided Tours
F-03: Mission Branch Library and San Jose Trail Guided Tour
F-04: Kayak Mission Reach Guided Float
F-05: Mission Reach Birds & Butterflies Guided Tour
F-06: Yanaguana Trail & Mission Reach Guided Tour
F-07: Mitchell Lake Audubon Guided Tours
F-08: Palo Alto Demonstration Garden Tour
F-09: San Antonio Botanical Garden Native Trails Guided Tour
F-10: Medina River Natural Area Guided Tour
F-11: Land Heritage Institute Guided Tour

Sunday – October 21st

S-01: Confluence Park Guided Tour
S-02: San Antonio Botanical Garden Tour
S-03: Mitchell Lake Guided Plant Tour
S-04: Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival – Participation
S-05: Rudder Middle School Rain Garden Guided Tour
S-06: Schumann Arboretum Self-Guided Tour – New Braunfels
S-07: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Guided Tour or Self Guided – Austin
S-08: I-35 Rest Stop – Northbound Bell County

Thursday Field Trips – October 18, 2018

**T-06: Albert & Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area
(Cancelled due to weather)**

**T-07: William & Dolores Schumann Arboretum,
Landa Park, New Braunfels (Cancelled due to
weather)**

Trips T-05 and T-06 are now full.

- Thursday field trips are planned for those traveling to San Antonio or who live near San Antonio.
- Six of the sites will have guided tours at a specific time. Most sites can also be visited on your own schedule.
- The timing of Thursday's guided tours is designed to allow participants to check into their hotel and attend the Welcome reception at the Embassy Suites.
- Some Thursday field trips will be repeated on Friday or Sunday.
- Maps and information on the Thursday field trip for which you registered will be e-mailed to you the week before the symposium.
- For a map of all field trips, [click here](#), and select the days you wish to view.

**Thursday's Wildflower Center Guided Tour has been Cancelled. There is a
Wildflower Center Tour on Sunday!**

T-01: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Gardens – Austin



The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is home to a stunning diversity of native Texas plants and a "Mecca" for NPSOT members. This guided tour will explore the central gardens which demonstrate that beauty and sustainability are not mutually exclusive.

Study the Home-owner Inspiration



Gardens to see how native plants work in naturalistic, formal and contemporary styles. The Texas Mixed Border is where Texas natives meet English cottage style gardening. The Luci and Ian Family Garden was created for children and families to immerse themselves in the outdoors. Please leave time to visit other areas of the Wildflower Center, such as the Arboretum and research trail, at your own pace. There are also a nice Café and Gift Store.

Leaders: LBJ Wildflower Center Docents On-Site POC, Meg Inglis, 512 589-1316

Time: 1 PM Tour – about 90 minutes

Level of Difficulty: Easy, wheelchair accessible, flat to slight slopes; mostly paved paths, a 1 mile walk.

Max # of Attendees: 30

Cost: Admission to LBJWC: Adults \$10, Seniors \$8, Reciprocity with some other Garden

Memberships (NOTE: LBJWC has waived their tour fee for our field trips! Thank You!)

Distance from Symposium Hotel: 95 miles, 95 minutes (Beware of Rush Hour!!)

Google Maps Address: 4801 La Crosse Ave, Austin, TX 78739

Website: <https://www.wildflower.org/>

Directions: The LBJ Wildflower Center is in South Austin about seven miles west of I-35, allow about 20 minutes from I-35. Take the Slaughter Road Exit and turn West on Slaughter Road. Proceed about 6.5 miles and turn Left (South) on Mo Pac Expressway (Route 1).

Proceed South about one mile, you will see signs to the Wildflower Center. Turn Left on La Crosse Ave. and proceed to the LBJWC parking lot on the right. Follow signs to the entrance station and pay admission. The docent will meet you near the entrance kiosk. There are numerous alternative routes depending on your route to Austin, however, the Wildflower Center is well marked. Google the address above.

T-02: San Antonio Botanical Garden – San Antonio



San Antonio is proud of its Botanical Garden displaying both native and non-native plants from around the world. We have arranged for a 1 to 1 1/2 hour tour of our "Texas Native Trail" which will highlight the local ecoregions being featured during the 2018 Symposium! There



**2018 Fall Symposium
October 18-21, 2018
Embassy Suites San Antonio
Brooks Hotel & Spa
7610 South New Braunfels**

- A Meander Through the Native Plant Communities of the San Antonio River Basin
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Registration
- Accommodations
- Plenary Speakers
- NPSOT Grant Recipient Presentations
- Field Trips – Thursday, Friday & Sunday
 - Thursday Field Trips – October 18, 2018
 - Friday Field Trips – October 19, 2018
 - Sunday Field Trips – October 21, 2018
- Saturday Breakout Sessions
- Friday Night Dinner
- Schedule
- Invaders of Texas Workshop
- Symposium T-Shirts
- Vendors & Exhibitors
- Silent Auction & Quilt Raffle
- Video Contest
- Photography Contest
- Become a Sponsor
- Volunteer Opportunities

are more than 250 plant species in collections that represent three ecosystems. In the East Texas Pineywoods, visitors find Pines, Sweetgum, Sassafras, and other acidic soil-loving woodland species. The Hill Country area features Live Oaks, Juniper, Texas Mountain Laurel, Eve's Necklace, Blanco Crabapple, Possum Haw, Hop-tree, Uvalde Maples, and other limestone tolerant plants. In the South Texas region, Dryland trees and thorny brush such as Torchwood, Mexican Olive, mesquite, Texas Ebony, and Huisache thrive. On this Walk you'll learn about the medicinal uses of native plants as well as their historical and cultural uses, and which are favored by birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The Texas Natives Trail will be mostly on well maintained dirt paths and sidewalks with slight inclines. Before or after the tour you will have time to visit other areas of the garden such as the Lucile Halsell Conservatory, the Cactus and Succulent Garden and the Old Fashioned Garden. SABOT closes at 5PM. Check out SABOT at <http://www.sabot.org/>

Leader: Jerry Morrissey, San Antonio NPSOT

Time: 2 PM

Level of Difficulty: Easy, flat to slight slopes; dirt and mostly paved paths, a 1 mile walk. Not easily wheelchair accessible.

Cost: Admission to SABOT: Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Reciprocity with some other Garden Memberships

Maximum Number of Attendees: 15

Distance from Symposium Hotel: 12 miles, 20 minutes (Beware of Rush Hour!!)

Google Map Address: 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, Texas

ON-Site Contact – Jerry Morrissey – 210-382-2614

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

Directions: San Antonio Botanical Gardens is located about four miles north of downtown and can be easily accessed from any major highway. Use Google Maps and the address above to find your best route. For example, from US 281 north of downtown, take the Hildebrand Ave. exit and turn East on Hildebrand. Proceed about one mile, crossing Broadway, and turn right on New Braunfels Ave. when Hildebrand ends at the golf course. In 0.6 miles, at the top of the hill, turn left onto Funston Place. Park in the large SABOT parking lot on the right and proceed to the entry kiosk. Pay admission and your tour will start at the kiosk at 2 PM. Or you can visit on your own (same price!).

T-03: Palmetto State Park – Near Gonzales



Where does East Texas transition to West Texas?? Palmetto State Park may be the answer. Named for the dwarf palmettos found in the park, the unusual geology and soils provide for a diverse plant ecosystem. The energetic Park Superintendent will provide a guided tour of Ottine Swamp and the Palmetto Interpretive Trail. The botany of the area in October is going to be mostly woody species with some late summer herbaceous wildflower species. The tour falls right in the middle of peak fall monarch season so we will see several blooming species important to migrating butterflies.

Leader: Liz Palfini, Park Superintendent

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Cost: \$3.00 adult admission, \$2.00 Senior Texas Residents or Texas State Parks Pass

Level of Difficulty: Almost flat 2-mile walk [ADA accessible] Max # of Attendees: 20

Distance from Hotel: 67 miles; about 70 minutes

Address: Palmetto State Park — 78 Park Road 11 South, Gonzales, TX Website:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/palmetto>

Directions are to Palmetto State Park Headquarters where you will pay entrance fee.

Google Map: [Click Here](#)

There are two slightly different ways to travel. From I-10, take exit 632 to US 183 towards Gonzales. For the "scenic" route, drive about 2.6 miles southeast on 183 until you see a "Palmetto State Park" entrance sign on the right. Take Park Road 11 (North) for two miles to the village of Ottine. The park headquarters is on the right just past the intersection of FM 1586. The alternative, less scenic, route from I-10 exit 632 is to head southeast on 183 for about 3.0 miles and take a slight right turn onto Park Road 11 (South) (also FM 261) travel about 1.6 miles to Ottine. The park headquarters is on the right just past the intersection of FM 1586.

[Map of Palmetto State Park:](#)

The tour will start at the "Refectory" where there is plenty of parking. You should be given a park map at the park headquarters and you should ask for directions to the Refectory.

Warning: I found that there seem to be several "Park 11" roads when the low water crossing is closed!

T-04: Canyon Lake Gorge Plant Tours (Two Different Tours: T4A and T4B) – Near New Braunfels





Canyon Lake Gorge is a unique geologic feature formed by the 2002 flooding of the Guadalupe River in Hill Country. The historic flood sliced open the ground below the spillway, creating a large 64-acre Gorge and exposing Cretaceous limestone, fossils and even dinosaur footprints 110 million years old. It is a textbook example highlighting Hill Country geology and the exposed Trinity Aquifer, clearly showing faults, fractures and seeps in the limestone. Limestone layers created from an ancient sea are visible, and visitors admire waterfalls and springs where the aquifer is exposed. Visit the Gorge website:

<https://canyongorge.org/>

Canyon Lake Gorge can only be visited by a guided tour. We have arranged two plant-oriented tours for October 18th only – a “Full” tour and a less difficult “Native Plant Trail” tour.

T-04A: The Full Gorge Plant Tour Includes the entire Gorge pathway with emphasis on plants / succession / land management and ending on the Native Plant Trail. This 3-hour walk is downhill over rough terrain. Participants attending the Full Gorge Plant Tour would also receive a complete Gorge property plant survey. Walking through the Gorge can be physically demanding, and is not recommended for people with heart conditions, bad knees, ankles or in poor physical health. Restrooms are located at the top, half way on the tour and at the bottom of the Gorge. Good walking shoes and bottled water are required. Consider a walking stick. Everyone is encouraged to bring a backpack so that their hands will be free. This tour will meet at the top of the gorge and walk down the gorge, then the Gorge personnel will shuttle us back to our vehicles.

Leader: Canyon Lake Gorge Personnel

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$10 per person

Level of Difficulty: Challenging – very uneven terrain

Max # of Attendees: 23

Distance from Hotel: 55 miles; 75 minutes

Address: 601 COE (Corps of Engineers) Road, Canyon Lake Overlook Park Parking Area:

On-site – see directions

Website: <https://canyongorge.org/>

Directions: Google Maps Address: 601 COE Road, Canyon Lake Overlook Park (COE = Corps of Engineers)

From IH 35 just north of New Braunfels, TX, take exit 191 onto FM 306 toward Canyon Lake. Approximately 12 miles, turn left onto FM 2673 W. Go 1.5 miles and turn right at the light onto South Access Rd. Go 1.2 miles; COE Rd. will be on the left just before the Dam.

From Hwy 281 turn right onto Hwy 306. Go 16.2 miles to Canyon City. At light, take a right onto South Access Rd. Go 1.3 miles. Just past the dam, turn right onto COE Rd.

FROM EITHER DIRECTION go up to the end of COE Rd. Park / meet your Guide at the very top near the restrooms (past the COE office.)

T-04B: Canyon Lake Gorge Native Plant Trail Tour Located on Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority property adjacent to the Gorge. The Native Plant Trail is on well-maintained, shaded, easily accessible wood-chipped trails. This 1.5-hour session includes a view of the Gorge from the upper plant / forested trail. There are steps that lead down into the Gorge if time/interest/mobility allow.

Leaders: Canyon Lake Gorge Personnel

Time: 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$5 per person

Level of Difficulty: Easy trail (with option for moderate walk into Gorge)

Max # of Attendees: 15

Distance from Hotel: 55 miles; 75 minutes

Address: 16029 South Access Road, Canyon Lake, TX

Parking Area: On-site – see directions

Website: <https://canyongorge.org/>

Directions: Google Map Address: 16029 South Access Road, Canyon Lake, TX

From IH 35 just north of New Braunfels, TX, take exit 191 onto FM 306 toward Canyon Lake. Approximately 12 miles, turn left onto FM 2673 W. Go 1.5 miles and turn right at the light onto South Access Rd. Go 1 mile; The meet-up Gorge property is well marked on the left, just before the Library.

From Hwy 281 turn right onto FM 306. Go 16.2 miles to Canyon City. At light, take a right onto South Access Rd. Go 1.5 miles (the dam will be on your right.) Just past the library, turn right onto Gorge property to park / meet-up with Guide.

T-05: Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary – Cibolo, Texas (FULL)



Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary is a 124 acre private property managed as a bird and wildlife refuge and preserve. The varied habitat covers Pecan Gap sediments with gently rolling topography near the convergence of three Ecological Regions: South Texas Plains, Blackland Prairie and Edwards Plateau. Don Schaezler will lead a leisurely two hour walk through their property identifying native plants, explaining their restoration efforts, and visiting several of their bird observation stations. As the name "Warbler Woods" suggests, birding is a major attraction. This 2-minute video is a good introduction to the property and what the owners have achieved. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2-PfaVmJD4> and this second video highlights some of the 289 species of birds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhTVSAMdgcw> Also visit their website, below.

Leader: Susan and Don Schaezler, owners

Time: 1:00 to 3:30 pm

Cost: None [Suggested donation of \$5 for bird feed!] Level of Difficulty: Easy – 1 to 2 mile level hike on trails. Most is wheelchair accessible. Off-road golf carts available for up to six participants.

Max # of Attendees: 20

Distance from Hotel: 35 miles; 45 minutes

Google Map Address: 19349 Old Wiederstein Road, Cibolo, TX

Parking Area: On-site – see directions

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

Directions: From Interstate 35 south of New Braunfels, take exit #178 (FM 1103); turn east on FM 1103. Turn right at the next light, Old Wiederstein Road. Go past school and look for large green mailbox on left, 19349 Old Wiederstein Road. Drive slowly to the parking area and park in an open space. Overflow parking is on Old Wiederstein Road, on the other side of the solid white line.

T-06: Albert & Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area (Cancelled due to weather)



The Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area is an excellent example of Balcones Canyonlands and in it you will find unique hill country flora. The walk is a small slice of this 3800 acre conservation area that includes a variety of trees like big tooth maples and madrones, shrubs such as yellow buckeye and sycamore leaf snowbells, forbs like cardinal flower and many interesting grasses.

This is a rare opportunity to tour this property since it is not yet open to the public, but is undergoing planning and design. It is located 7 miles west of I-10 on Highway 46 on the border of Kendall County and Bandera County and began as a family ranch in 1946. ABKSNA was donated to the state of Texas in 2011 and in 2013 the first and only employee, Superintendent James Rice was hired.

Leaders: Anne Adams, Kathy Ward, Brenda and Gary Fest

Time: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Level of Difficulty: Hilly, rocky, eroded gravelly trail is 2 miles; bring appropriate shoes, water, and walking stick.

Cost: None

Max number of Attendees: 30

Distance from Symposium Hotel: 45 miles, probably 55 – 60 minutes (Beware of rush hour!)

Address: 7690 Highway 46 West, Pipe Creek, TX 78063

Parking area: on site, with grassy area for overflow

On-Site Contact: Veronica Hawk, 830-515-9823

Website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/albert-bessie-kronkosky>

Directions: From I-10, going east bound from west Texas or west bound from the hotel in San Antonio: Take the Highway 46 exit 540 and turn west toward Bandera. Continue 7 miles and the destination will be on the right, about 9 minute drive and take the second driveway after the house.

T-07: William & Dolores Schumann Arboretum, Linda Park, New Braunfels



This arboretum is very convenient to I-35 and can be visited at your convenience due to the excellent "Arboretum Guide". The 55-tree guide can be viewed on a smartphone, notebook, or purchased at the Park Office for \$5 (See Below). The Dolores and Bill Schumann Arboretum is home to over 80 species of trees (not all Texas natives) making it one of the most diverse arboretums in Texas. Tree #11 in the Guide is the enormous "Founder's Oak", a Texas Live Oak estimated to be about 350 years old. See if you can find the Paw Paw tree, not in the guide! In addition to the arboretum, Landa Park includes the headwaters of the Comal River with the largest flowing artesian spring in Texas. Ask for directions at the Park Office.

The self-guided arboretum tour is 1.25 miles on paved walkways. View a downloadable arboretum guide at <https://www.nbtexas.org/1441/Arboretum>. A map of Landa Park and the Arboretum is on pages 32-33 of the guide (you may want to print the map if you are planning to use the on-line guide).

The Arboretum Guide is available for purchase at the Parks Administrative Office at 110 Golf Course Road. The Park Office is open from 8 to 5, Monday through Fridays, Ph: 830-608-2160. The Arboretum Trail starts at the Park Office and there is plenty of parking.

- Leaders: Self-Guided Walk with booklet. Purchase at Park Office, 110
- Golf Course Road, New Braunfels, TX
- Time: Park Office open 8AM to 5PM
- Level of Difficulty: Easy, wheelchair accessible, flat to slight slopes; mostly paved paths, a 1.25 mile walk.
- Cost: None, optional printed booklet – \$5
- Maximum Number of Participants – No Limit
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 40 miles, 50 minutes (Beware of Rush Hour!!)
- Address: 110 Golf Course Road, New Braunfels, Texas
- Website: <https://www.nbtexas.org/1441/Arboretum>

Directions: From IH 35, take Exit 187 and turn west on Seguin Avenue towards downtown New Braunfels. Follow Seguin Avenue to Main Plaza (traffic circle) in downtown New Braunfels. Go halfway around the traffic circle and exit (right) back onto Seguin Avenue by the Courthouse. Immediately get into the left lane. [Hint: Seguin Avenue becomes Landa Street] At the second traffic light, turn right on Landa Park Drive at the entrance to Landa Park. Proceed about 1/3 mile on Landa Park Drive to Golf Course Road on your right. Park in the large parking lot. The Park Headquarters is on the corner of Landa Park Drive and Golf Course Road.

T-08: I-35 Rest Stop, Southbound, Bell County.



You have probably heard of the Monarch Waystations which have been installed at rest stops in Hill County and Bell County. The joint project by NPSOT, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Texas Department of Transportation features native pollinator plants as nectar sources for migrating monarch butterflies. Since our Symposium will be held during the height of the monarch migration, it might be interesting to see how many monarchs stop in! Learn more at: <https://npsot.org/wp/education/interstate-35-monarch-waystations/> The native plant beds are just in front of the Welcome Center. And, who can pass up a beautiful Rest Stop??

A member of the Tonkawa Chapter of NPSOT will be available from 11 AM to 1 PM to explain the project and plantings.

Directions: Bell County Southbound Safety Rest Area can only be accessed from the Interstate. I-35. Heading south on I-35, about two miles south of Salado, take Exit 282 to the rest area.

T-09 and T-10: Natives of Texas & Medina Garden Nurseries – Staff Guided Visit

Do you like to visit nurseries that carry hard-to-find Texas native trees and shrubs?? If so, you may want to explore these two small nurseries northwest of San Antonio. The nurseries are so close on the same road that they are intended to be visited together. Although they may be a little out of the way, both nurseries are on Scenic Texas Highway 16 between Kerrville and

Bandera. The staff of both nurseries have said they will be available on Thursday afternoon. If you are interested in a specific plant, I suggest you call ahead to determine availability.

T-09 – Natives of Texas Hill Country Native Plant Nursery



This nursery specializing in native Texas plants is on Texas 16 about 11 miles south of Kerrville. The nursery was founded by Betty Winningham to share her enjoyment of Texas native plants. Plants are displayed on tables and on the ground like typical nurseries and there is a small demonstration garden. The staff is very knowledgeable about suitability of plants and propagation techniques.

- Leaders: Nursery Staff
- Time: Anytime Thursday afternoon.
- Level of Difficulty: Display area is on the side of a hill. Easy, flat to slight slopes, short distances, not wheelchair accessible.
- Cost: None (unless you buy a plant!)
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 90 miles, 1½ to 2 hours

Website: <http://www.nativesoftexas.com/>

Catalog: <http://www.nativesoftexas.com/catalog.html>

Directions to: T-09 -Natives of Texas Hill Country Native Plant Nursery

Address: 4256 Medina Highway (Texas – 16), Kerrville, Texas

From I-10 North of Kerrville, take Exit 508, Kerrville. At the bottom of the hill, turn right on Texas 16 towards Kerrville. Follow T-16 south through Kerrville towards Medina and Bandera. When you cross the Guadalupe River, it is 11 miles on T-16 to the nursery. Look for a relatively small sign on your right (picture of sign on website). You will be entering a private property on a gravel road. Go about ¼ mile, past several buildings, to the nursery. Limited parking.

From the south, use directions to Medina Garden Nursery. Continue on Texas-16 North for 13.2 miles on a curvy Hill Country drive. Look for a small sign on your left leading to a private property. Continue as above.

T-10 Medina Garden Nursery is on the south end of Medina about 13 miles south of “Natives of Texas” on Texas 16. This nursery is unusual in that it has “Demonstration Gardens” to show how their native plants can be used and their “mature” size. The staff will take you around the gardens, answer questions, and you can tell them which plants you want. The plants are kept in a separate area and I found most were not labeled.



NPSOT Newsletter Article: <https://npsot.org/wp/story/2009/1150/>

- Leaders: Nursery Staff
- Time: Anytime Thursday afternoon.
- Level of Difficulty: Easy, flat to slight slopes, short distances, not wheelchair accessible.
- Cost: None (unless you buy a plant!)
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 75 miles, 1½ to 2 hours
- Google Maps Address: Medina Garden Nursery, 13417 Texas-16, Medina, Texas [Click Here](#)
- Website: <http://medinagardennursery.com/>

Directions to: T-10 – Medina Garden Nursery

From San Antonio or the south – head for Bandera, Texas (Self-Proclaimed Cowboy Capital of the World!). From Bandera, take Texas-16 North for 12.7 miles. Just before the village of Medina, look for a small sign on your left and a parking lot. If you pass The Apple Store (the fruit – and nice pastries), you’ve gone too far!

From the north and Natives of Texas Nursery, continue on Texas-16 for 13.2 miles through some very scenic Hill Country and through the village of Medina. From “The Apple Store”, it’s about half a mile to Medina Garden Nursery at the south of town. Look for a small sign and a driveway on your right.

Friday Field Trips – October 19, 2018

Trips F-04, F-05, F-06, and F-11 are now full.

- Friday's field trips support the symposium theme of a "meander along the San Antonio River".
- Starting at the "Headwaters", the guided trips will emphasize the plants along the river and downstream ecoregions as well as some history and ethnobotany.

F-01: Blue Hole/Headwaters Sanctuary Tours



The only Sanctuary in the heart of the city, Headwaters Sanctuary is a 53-acre nature sanctuary and home to the Blue Hole, the source spring of the San Antonio River. Headwaters Sanctuary is restoring our urban landscape through the removal of invasive plants and propagation of native species in an effort to increase biodiversity and benefit local wildlife. For thousands of years before Spanish settlement, Native Americans pilgrimaged to the headwaters of the San Antonio River to meet, trade, and celebrate the sacred Blue Hole spring.

Come take a leisurely walk through the Sanctuary and feel the spirit of the Great Oaks estimated to be over 100 years old. Listen to the sights and sounds of birds as they lead the walk through central San Antonio urban forest full of Texas native plants.

- Leaders: Fred Loxsom-Emeritus Professor Trinity University and Sanctuary Volunteers. Jessica Leslie, Master Naturalist and NPSOT-San Antonio member. She regularly conducts the Native Plant and Butterfly walks at the San Antonio Botanical Garden and assists in the greenhouse propagating native Texas plants.
- Time: 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM
- Level of Difficulty: Easy, flat to slight slopes, Not wheelchair accessible.
- Maximum # of Attendees: 30
- Cost: Free (\$5 donation to Headwaters Sanctuary recommended)
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 10.2 miles, 16 minutes
- Google Map Address: Headwaters Sanctuary Trail, San Antonio. On the campus of the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW), behind the baseball field. The meeting point for this field trip is a little hard to find. Consider carpooling or traveling in caravan from the hotel.
- Website: <https://www.headwaters-iw.org/>

Directions: From Hotel to Headwaters Sanctuary Trails – use or print [Google Maps \(Click here\)](#) for directions. Note: Using a street address is misleading since the entire UIW campus has one address and the streets are not named. From the Brooks Embassy Suites, turn right on S. New Braunfels Ave. In about 0.7 miles, turn right onto Pecan Valley Drive. In another half mile turn left to enter North US 281 (also I-37). Stay on US 281 (center lanes) for eight miles and take the Hildebrand Ave exit. Be aware that you will be exiting US-281 at the Hildebrand Avenue exit, but at Hildebrand you will go directly across the intersection onto the 281



entrance ramp! But, there will be a small right turn lane where you turn into a "back gate" for the school. Follow this un-named road, turning left and bearing left between the buildings until you see the Headwaters sign on the left behind the ball field.

F-02: Confluence Park Guided Tour



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- Video Contest
- Photography Contest
- Become a Sponsor
- Volunteer Opportunities



Confluence Park / River Mission Reach Trail Guided Tour. Confluence Park, where San Antonio River meets San Pedro Creek south of downtown San Antonio. The landmark completed Spring of 2018 is where art, nature and science meet. Park's environmental education as its core purpose, Confluence Park is envisioned as an interactive teaching tool that will inspire a greater understanding of Texas ecotypes and watershed dynamics. The San Antonio River Foundation \$13 million investment in its design and operation. Confluence Park provides a state-of-the-art outdoor venue to accommodate the San Antonio River Authority established educational outreach programs.

Native Plant Society of Texas members will tour the three-acre park that is specifically designed to showcase five ecotypes of Texas native plants: Texas Oak Conservancy, Texas Live Oak Savannah, Grassland Prairie, Trans Pecos / Chihuahuan Desert and the Riparian San Antonio Mission Reach Restoration. Tour a site-wide water catchment system which collects all of the rainwater that falls on the site and feeds the water into an underground cistern measuring 12,600 cubic feet or approximately 100,000 gallons. The estimated rainwater collection is 286,000 gallons per year. Also part of the tour will be outside Confluence Park on the River Mission Reach Trail to the Pedestrian Bridge over the river.

- Leaders: Kelly and Stuart Lyons – Park Designers; Frates Seeligson, Director of Confluence Park
- Time: 1 PM – 3:30 PM
- Level of Difficulty: Easy, wheelchair accessible, flat to slight slopes to the SA River; mostly paved paths, 2.5 miles.
- Cost: None
- Max # of Attendees: 30
- Distance from Hotel: 6 miles; about 10 minutes
- Google Map Address: 310 W Mitchell St, San Antonio, TX
- Website: confluencepark.sariverfound.org

Directions – From the hotel, go north on S New Braunfels Ave for .7 miles. Turn right onto Pecan Valley Dr for 1/2 mile. Turn Left onto the I-37 North Ramp (left side). Continue North on I-37 (also US-281) for 2.6 miles. Use the right 2 lanes to take Exit 139 for US 90 W/US 87 N/Interstate 10 W toward El Paso. Continue west to Probandt. (FIRST Exit) take Exit 573. At light (Probandt) take a left under IH 10 for 0.2 miles to Mitchell Street. Take a Left at Mitchell to # 310. (about 0.2miles). Confluence Park and Parking are on the Right. Meet at the Education Building. [Google Maps \(click here\)](#)

F-03: Mission Branch Library and San Jose Trail Walk Guided Tour

Mission Branch Library was opened on April 30, 2011. This site was previously occupied by the landmark Mission Drive-In Theater. A series of artworks created by San Antonio native Chris Sauter can be seen in various areas of the library site. These include a mural depicting the library and Mission San Jose above layers of San Antonio history, two outdoor sculptures embedded with “fossils” and “artifacts”, and cylindrical seating located in the playground.



Built on the site of a former drive-in the 16,400 sq. ft. facility stands between a restored movie marquee and historic Mission San Jose. Mission Library was designed and built to LEED Silver Certification standards. All efforts were made to insure that the Library is a good steward of the environment and that the new library sets an example for future development in the area. Come see the use of South Texas native plants and trees around the build and its court yards. Library also contains small free seed bank of natives seeds and garden seeds.



The 2nd part of the tour will take place at Mission San Jose Hike and Bike Trail- less than a mile walk tour in woodland area. Filled with native vines, palmettos to cottonwood trees. It is in walking distance from Mission library but recommend possibly driving. The Mission San Jose trail is part National Historical Park trails connecting all five mission in San Antonio: The Alamo, Mission Concepcion, Mission San Jose, Mission San Juan and Mission Espada.

If time permits and not part of the Symposium tour, Mission San Jose National Historical Park grounds are open to the public. Mission San Jose is known as the “Queen of the Missions”, this is the largest of the missions and was almost fully restored to its original design in the 1930s by the WPA (Works Projects Administration). Spanish missions were not churches, but communities with the church the focus. Mission San José captures a transitional moment in history, frozen in time. Parks Visitor center open until 5pm.



Special note– distance to Symposium Friday Dinner (at Mission County Park) is less than 1/4 mile from this field trip.

- Leaders: Armando Cortez, City of SA Arborist, Jerry Hess, Mission Garden Steward and National Historical Park Ranger
- Time: 1 PM – 3:30 PM. Tour will start at the Mission Library front conference room.
- Level of Difficulty: Easy, wheelchair accessible.
- Cost: None
- Max # of Attendees: 15

- Distance from Hotel: 3.3 Miles (8 minutes)
- Google Map Address: 3134 Roosevelt Ave, San Antonio, TX 78214
- [Google Maps: Click Here](#)
- Website: <https://www.mysapl.org/Visit/Locations/Mission-Library>

Directions: From the Brooks Embassy Suites, turn right onto S New Braunfels Ave. In 0.3 miles turn left onto SE Military Drive. In 2.0 miles turn right onto Roosevelt Ave. In 0.7 mile turn right into parking lot at 3134 Roosevelt Ave. / Library. Meet in the Library's front conference room.

F-04: Mission Reach Kayak Guided Tour (FULL)

Requires \$65 prepayment to reserve your spot. Click [here](#) to pay AFTER you have registered.



See the San Antonio River restoration from a unique perspective by joining experts on a guided kayak tour. The Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project restored over 400 acres of native habitat while maintaining flood conveyance along 8 miles of a previously channelized segment of the San Antonio River near the urban core. This tour will be guided by specialists with expertise in native plant community restoration and management. On this guided tour you'll learn about the restoration activities of the project and get up close and personal with the interesting flora and fauna that are found in the water and along the water's edge. Other highlights to be seen along the route include the CoCobijos art installation at the Mission San Jose Portal, historic Hot Wells Hotel Ruins, the San Juan Diversion Dam that supplies water to the San Juan Acequia (an irrigation ditch from the 1700's that carries water to Mission San Juan Capistrano) and art murals under SE Military Drive. Before or after the tour you will have time to visit other areas nearby including the Espada Dam and Acequia Trail. Park hours of operation are from dawn to dusk. Check out the [Mission Reach Website](#).

Included – Kayaks, Paddles, Life Vests, and van shuttle service

What to Bring– A water bottle, sunscreen, sunglasses with strap and hat are good to bring along. You will be standing in the water to get in and out of the kayak so bring shoes that you don't mind getting wet (i.e. strap on sandals or water-shoes, NO flip-flops). You will be getting very wet from the waist down and it is a good idea to bring a change of clothes. Bring some type of waterproof bag to keep you keys and cellphone in or you can rent a dry bag from Mission Kayak for \$5.00 on the day of your trip.

- Leaders: Kevin Pride, Riparian Landscape Technician, San Antonio River Authority; and Cleveland Powell, Native Plant Enthusiast
- Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
- Level of Difficulty: Moderate, an approximate 3 mile paddle route through natural river conditions with man-made structures including canoe chutes and/or portage needed. Not wheelchair accessible.
- Cost: \$65 (Please prepay online by Oct 12th – [click here](#))
- Maximum # of Attendees: 20
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 2.6 miles, 6 minutes
- Google Map Address: Espada Park Parking Lot, 1750 Military Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78214.



- Website: [Mission Adventure Tours](#)

Directions: Espada Park is located about 2.6 miles west of the Embassy Suites. Use [Google Maps to Espada Park Parking Lot](#). For example, from the hotel turn right on S. New Braunfels Ave. Go about a quarter mile then turn left on SE Military Drive. In about a mile, you will cross over the San Antonio River and will take an immediate left onto Mission Parkway just past the river crossing. The entrance to the Espada Park parking lot will be on the right. You can also park in parking spaces along Mission Parkway. We will be meeting at Espada Park Parking Lot near the bathrooms. Look for the Mission Kayak van with a kayak trailer. We will shuttle you upstream to the launch point.

F-05: Mission Reach Birds and Butterflies Guided Tour (FULL)



The Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project restored over 400 acres of native habitat while maintaining flood conveyance along 8 miles of a previously channelized segment of the San Antonio River near the urban core. There are more than 280 native plant species that have been recorded within the restored riparian areas along the River. Join two experts on a guided tour of restored native plant communities while exploring the native birds and butterflies that can be found. The tour will also take you through woodlands on a portion of the Acequia Trail along the San Juan Acequia, an irrigation ditch from the 1700's that carries water to Mission San Juan Capistrano.

The tour includes a visit to the Mission Reach Operations Center to see native plant rain gardens and a Monarch Garden that is used for research and to support the full life cycle of the Monarch plus many other pollinators. This tour will be guided by specialists with expertise in native plant community restoration and management, birds, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies. On this guided tour you'll learn about the restoration activities of the project and the interesting birds that have been recorded using the habitat as part of an ongoing bird study.

The trail is 10 feet wide with portions of the trail being composed of concrete and other portions of stabilized base material, as well as a boardwalk. The short trail through the Monarch Garden consists of uneven terrain and grass. All trail types have slight inclines. Before or after the tour you will have time to visit other areas nearby including the Espada Dam. Park hours of operation are from dawn to dusk. Check out the [Mission Reach](#)

- Leaders: Kirk Moravits, Natural Resource Management Specialist, San Antonio River Authority; and Martin Reid, Avian Specialist
- Time: 1 PM to 4 PM
- Level of Difficulty: Moderate, flat to slight slopes; dirt and mostly paved paths, a 2 mile walk. Not easily wheelchair accessible.
- Cost: FREE
- Maximum # of Attendees: 15
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 3 miles, 10 minutes
- Google Map Address: Acequia Park Parking Lot, near 8500 Mission Parkway, San Antonio, Texas 78223

Directions: Acequia Park is located about 3 miles west of the Embassy Suites. Use Google maps to find your best route. [Click Here](#) For example, from the hotel turn right on S. New Braunfels Ave. Go about a quarter mile then turn left on SE Military Drive. In about a mile, you will cross over the San Antonio River and will take an immediate left onto Mission Parkway just past the river crossing. Follow Mission Parkway for about a half mile and just after re-crossing the river near the large dam, turn left into Acequia Park. Park in the parking lot and meet the tour group near the pavilion.

F-06: Yanaguana Trail and Mission Reach Guided Tour (FULL)



Before it was called the San Antonio River, it was called "Yanaguana." The Yanaguana Trail runs along an original remnant of the San Antonio River at Mission San Juan Capistrano. The remnant was bypassed when the river was channelized for flood control decades ago, and the area is managed in a natural state by the National Park Service. This is a great area to understand the historical characteristics of the river including its native riparian plant communities.

The nearby Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project restored over 400 acres of native habitat while maintaining flood conveyance along 8 miles of a previously channelized segment of the San Antonio River. There are more than 280 native plant species that have been recorded within the restored riparian areas along the River. This area will show you the dramatic changes that humans have made to the river. Join two experts on a guided tour of the "old" and "new" river. Interesting stops along the tour include a historic Berg's Mill structure, a portion of the Espada Acequia (an irrigation ditch from the 1700's that carries water to Mission Espada), and the "Whispers" art installation. On this guided tour you'll learn about the history of the river in this location and the restoration activities of the project. The trail varies between 5-10 feet wide with portions of the trail being composed of concrete and other portions of stabilized base material, as well as a boardwalk. All trail types have slight inclines. Before or after the tour you will have time to visit other areas nearby such as the Mission San Juan Capistrano including a living demonstration farm. Park hours of operation are from dawn to dusk.



- Leaders: Donald Ewers, Vice President of the San Antonio Chapter of NPSOT; and Lee Marlowe, Sustainable Landscape Ecologist, San Antonio River Authority
- Time: 1 PM to 4 PM.

- Level of Difficulty: Moderate, flat to slight slopes; dirt and mostly paved paths, a 2 mile walk. Not easily wheelchair accessible.
- Cost: FREE
- Maximum # of Attendees: 15
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 2.5 miles, 6 minutes
- Google Map Address: Mission San Juan Capistrano, 9101 Graf Rd, San Antonio, TX [Click Here](#)
- Website: [Mission Reach](#)

Directions: Mission San Juan Capistrano is located about 2 miles west of the Embassy Suites. Graf Road is closed for construction between Presa Street and Mission Parkway so the following route is the shortest and easiest. From the Embassy Suites Hotel, turn right on S. New Braunfels Ave. In about a quarter mile, turn left onto SE Military Drive. In about 1.5 miles, turn left at the light onto Mission Road. In about 1.9 miles, Mission San Juan Capistrano will be on the right. Park in the parking lot and meet the tour group near the trailhead at the main entrance from the parking lot.

F-07: Mitchell Lake Audubon Guided Tour



This unique and beautiful bird haven consists of the 600-acre Mitchell Lake, 215 acres of wetlands and ponds and 385 acres of upland habitat. Located on the northern edge of the South Texas plains ecoregion, it is not uncommon to see American White Pelicans by the hundreds resting among an assortment of water birds such as Northern Pintail, American Avocet, and Green Heron. The Center is nestled among a colorful garden of native plants that invites an assortment of birds, butterflies, and the occasional lizard.

Divided into 2 groups of 15 each. Both groups will tour both the native plant walk and Mitchell Lake Bird tour.

Tour A – Guided Native Plant Trail : Mitchell Lake is situated in the ecological/ vegetation region known as the South Texas Plains, also known as the South Texas Brush Country or Tamaulipan Thornscrub. More than 120 plant species have been identified on the site. Thorny brush is the predominant vegetation type in the region. Brush Country has a greater diversity of animal life than any other in Texas. It is home for many near-tropical species prevalent in Mexico, many grassland species that range northward, and some desert species commonly found in the Trans-Pecos. Some ecologists refer to the entire South Texas-Northern Mexico scrubland region as the Tamaulipan Biotic Province. Accessibility: Distance ¾ miles, wheelchair accessible/ path paved crushed granite

Tour B – Guided Mitchell Lake bird tour via van / carpool. On this guided bird tour around the various habitats of Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, guests will see 30-50 different bird species with our expert guide. Travelling by both car and by foot to access as many areas as possible. Three miles via van/carpool, with some walking. Wheelchair access difficult.

- **Path 1** starts with Native Plant Walk, then Mitchell Lake Bird guided tour .
- **Path 2** starts with Mitchell Lake Bird guided tour, then Native Plant walk .
- Leaders: Gilbert Martinez – Conservation & Operations Manager; and NPSOT-SA member guide /Audubon member.
- Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Level of Difficulty: See Tour A and Tour B – they are different.
- Cost: \$8 admission
- Maximum # of Attendees – 30
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 8 miles, 14 minutes
- Google Map Address: 10750 Pleasanton Rd. – Meet at Nature Store. Consider carpooling or traveling in caravan from hotel.
- Website: <http://mitchelllake.audubon.org/visit>

Directions: Mitchell Lake Audubon Center is located at 10750 Pleasanton Rd. in San Antonio, Texas. Take loop 410, exit 46 for Moursund Blvd and drive south (outside the loop) 0.7 mile. The gate is on the left. Set Google Map destination as 10750 Pleasanton Road, San Antonio.

[Google Map Directions](#)

F-08: Palo Alto College Demonstration Garden





Join us for guided and self-guided tours of the gardens that are sprinkled throughout the Palo Alto College campus. As the only college in the area that offers horticulture and agriculture degrees, we offer our students a unique opportunity to work in gardens that double as beautiful spaces and classrooms. Different gardens include the organic garden, zen garden, botanical garden, and even a Texas medicinal trail. All facilities are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards.



Before the tours, we will have a brief presentation and Q & A session over obtaining funding for educational gardens, installing and maintaining gardens, and using the gardens as classrooms.

Participants need to wear their symposium name badges at all times while on campus.

- Leaders: Rachel Cywinski, San Antonio NPSOT, and PAC students
- Time: 1 PM – 3:30
- Level of Difficulty: Easy, ADA compliant, a half-mile level walk on sidewalks.
- Cost: None
- Maximum Number of Attendees: 100
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 11 miles, 15 minutes
- Address: Green House, Palo Alto College, 1400 West Villaret Boulevard, San Antonio
- Google Address: Lot 10, San Antonio, TX (Yes, just Lot 10, SA)
- Website: [PAC Campus Map](#)

Directions: From the Embassy Suites Hotel, turn right onto S. New Braunfels Avenue. In a quarter mile, turn right onto SE Military Hwy. In 1.5 miles, turn right and take ramp onto Interstate 37 towards Corpus Christi. Drive south on IH 37 toward Corpus Christi for 1.5 mi. Use Exit 133 to the right and drive west onto Loop 410. In 7.6 miles, take exit 49 toward TS-16 / Texas 422 Spur / Palo Alto Road. Continue on I-410 Loop Access Road for 0.5 miles. Exit right at Palo Alto College on Camino Real (See small map). Turn left at the first cross street, Concepcion. After 0.1 miles on Concepcion, turn right into Parking Lot 10, Park near tennis courts. After parking in Parking Lot 10, we will walk between the tennis courts to the Greenhouse. [Google Map Directions to Lot 10](#)

F-09: San Antonio Botanical Garden



San Antonio is proud of its Botanical Garden displaying both native and non-native plants from around the world. We have arranged for a 1 to 1 1/2 hour tour of our "Texas Native Trail" which will highlight the local ecoregions being featured during the 2018 Symposium! There are more than 250 plant species in collections that represent three ecosystems. In the East Texas Pineywoods, visitors find Pines, Sweetgum, Sassafras, and other acidic soil-loving woodland species. The Hill Country area features Live Oaks, Juniper, Texas Mountain Laurel, Eve's Necklace, Blanco Crabapple, Possum Haw, Hop-tree, Uvalde Maples, and other limestone tolerant plants. In the South Texas region, Dryland trees and thorny brush such as Torchwood, Mexican Olive, mesquite, Texas Ebony, and Huisache thrive. On this walk you'll learn about the medicinal uses of native plants as well as their historical and cultural uses, and which are favored by birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The Texas Natives Trail will be mostly on well maintained dirt paths and sidewalks with slight inclines. Before or after the tour you will have time to visit other areas of the garden such as the Lucile Halsell Conservatory, the Cactus and Succulent Garden and the Old Fashioned Garden.

- Leaders: San Antonio Botanical Garden Guides
- Time: 1 PM
- Level of Difficulty: Easy, flat to slight slopes; dirt and mostly paved paths, a 1 mile walk. Not easily wheelchair accessible.
- Cost: Admission to SABOT: Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Reciprocity with some other Garden Memberships
- Maximum Number of Attendees: 30
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 11 miles, 20 minutes
- Google Map Address: San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, Texas

- Website: <http://www.sabot.org/>

Directions: San Antonio Botanical Gardens is located about 11 miles north of the Embassy Suites. For example, from the hotel turn right on S. New Braunfels Ave. In about a half mile, turn right onto Pecan Valley Drive. In another half mile turn left to enter North US 281 (also I-37). Stay on US 281 for 9.4 miles and take the Hildebrand Ave. exit. Turn right onto Hildebrand Ave. Proceed about one mile, crossing Broadway, and turn right on New Braunfels Ave. when Hildebrand ends at the golf course. In 0.6 miles, at the top of the hill, turn left onto Funston Place. Park in the large SABOT parking lot on the right and proceed to the entry kiosk. Pay admission and your tour will start at the kiosk at your tour time. Google Map

Directions: [San Antonio Botanical Garden](#)

F-10: Medina River Natural Area Guided Tour



The Medina River Natural Area (MRNA) is a 511 acre component of the Natural Areas of San Antonio Parks and Recreation. It has 1.8 miles of trail in lower riparian areas that contain mature Bald Cypress and Pecan and companion understory trees, shrubs and vines. There are access and overlook areas for the north side of the Medina River. The Medina River Greenway Trail is a concrete trail passing along uplands with grassy areas, mesquite and some of the chaparral shrubs and perennials from South Texas. The outing will start with a 30 to 45 minute orientation on the plants of the MRNA, some of which are included in a newly installed Chaparral Garden adjacent to the parking lot & office. The outing will then be split into smaller groups with interpretive guides to explore the plants along a combination of the riparian and upland trails and their connectors. Bathrooms and water are available at the office area but not on the trails.

- Leader: George Ozona. On-Site POC, Cathy Justice 210-216-1073
- Time: 1 PM to 3:30 PM.
- Level of Difficulty: A combination of paved and dirt trails that range from flat areas to moderate slopes and a few short steep sections. The Medina River Greenway is wheelchair accessible for a guided tour. [Trail/Accessibility Map](#):
- Maximum # ~ 20
- Cost: No admission fees.
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 15.7 miles, 20 to 23 minutes
- Google Address: 15890 Hwy 16 South, San Antonio, Texas 78264
- Facebook: [facebook.com/MedinaRiverNaturalArea/](https://www.facebook.com/MedinaRiverNaturalArea/)

Directions: Drive briefly north on New Braunfels and quickly turn right onto SE Military Hwy. Follow for 1.5 mi. to IH 37 S. Drive south on IH 37 toward Corpus Christi for 1.5 mi. Use Exit 133 to the right and drive west on Loop 410 for 7.6 miles to Exit 49 for Spur 422 and Hwy 16 South. Follow the access road for about a mile until a left turn onto Spur 422/Hwy 16 S. Drive south. At 3.6 mi. there is a traffic light for Lone Star Pass. You need to move to the left lane and look for the sign to MRNA. at 0.7 mi past the light. Turn left across the divided highway and follow the entrance road to the parking lot. If you cross the Medina River, you need to turnaround and drive north to the entrance to the park on the right. [Google Map](#)

Directions:

F-11: Land Heritage Institute (FULL)



The Land Heritage Institute (LHI) is a 1200 acre property on the south bank of Medina River. It is operated by a non-profit organization that is dedicated to LHI serving as a living land museum. We will meet at 1 PM at the Headquarters Building which has the only restroom facility at LHI. Following an orientation session we will drive to the Presnall-Watson homestead for a short tour of this historical site. This will be the starting point for a walk on the uplands of the Medina River where South Texas species such as spiny hackberry, desert yaupon and mesquite meet Hill Country species such as agarita, hog plum and Texas persimmon. We will walk to river lookouts above sandstone cliffs and briefly drop into the lowlands of the Medina River to observe the river and riparian trees and other plants. Bring water, insect repellent, camera and binoculars (if you desire to view birds and butterflies)

- Leader: Jerry Morrissey – San Antonio NPSOT
- Time: 1 PM to 3:30 PM.
- Level of Difficulty: A combination of paved and dirt paths that range from flat to gently rolling except for the short deeper descent to and ascent from the lowland along the Medina River. Majority of the area is not wheelchair accessible. Walk distance of 1.5 to 2.0 miles.
- Maximum # – 15
- Cost: Donation of \$5 requested by LHI.
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 15.6 miles, 25 minutes
- Google Address: 1349 Neal Road, San Antonio, Texas 78264
- ON-Site Contact – Jerry Morrissey – 210-382-2614
- Website: landheritageinstitute.org

Directions: Drive briefly north on New Braunfels and quickly turn right onto SE Military Hwy. Follow for 1.5 mi. to IH 37 S. Drive south on IH 37 toward Corpus Christi for 1.5 mi. Use Exit 133 to the right and drive west on Loop 410 for 5.3 miles to Exit 46 for Moursund Rd. Follow the access road for about 0.3 mile until reaching a stop sign and then turn left under Loop 410. Drive south on Moursund/Pleasanton Rd. for 5.1 miles until a right turn onto Neal Rd. Drive 2.3 miles to the entrance to LHI on the right. There will be a sign. Follow the internal road for 0.8 mi. to a road on the right that leads to the Headquarters area. There will be a sign at that turn. [Google Map to Land Heritage Institute](#)

Sunday Field Trips – October 21, 2018

Trips S-01 and S-02 are now full.

◦ S-01: Confluence Park Guided Tour (FULL)



Confluence Park /River Mission Reach Trail Guided Tour. Confluence Park, where San Antonio River meets San Pedro Creek south of downtown San Antonio. The landmark completed Spring of 2018 is where art, nature and science meet. Park's environmental education as its core purpose, Confluence Park is envisioned as an interactive teaching tool that will inspire a greater understanding of Texas ecotypes and watershed dynamics. The San Antonio River Foundation \$13 Million investment in its design and operation. Confluence Park provides a state-of-the-art outdoor venue to accommodate the San Antonio River Authority established educational outreach programs. Native Plant Society of Texas members will tour the three-acre park that is specifically designed to showcase five ecotypes of Texas native plants: Texas Oak Conservancy, Texas Live Oak Savannah, Grassland Prairie, Trans Pecos / Chihuahuan Desert, and the Riparian San Antonio River Mission Reach Restoration. Tour a site-wide water catchment system which collects all of the rainwater that falls on the site and feeds the water into an underground cistern measuring 12,600 cubic feet or approximately 100,000 gallons. The estimated rainwater collection is 286,000 gallons per year.

Also part of the tour will be outside Confluence Park on the River Mission Reach Trail to the Pedestrian Bridge over the river.

- Guide: Peter Hernandez – Master Naturalist and NSPOT-SA board member.
- Time: 10 AM – Noon
- Admission – No Charge (Donations to SA River Foundation)
- Maximum – 15 participants
- Easy, wheelchair accessible, flat to slight slopes to the SA River; mostly paved paths.
- Guided tour will be 1 mile inside the park and 1.5 miles outside the park on River Mission Trail. Total 2.5 miles.
- Website: confluencepark.sariverfound.org
- Google Map Address – 310 W Mitchell St, San Antonio, TX
- Estimated 6 miles from the hotel. Travel Time 10 minutes via HWY 281

Directions – From the hotel go north on S New Braunfels Ave for .7 miles. Turn right onto Pecan Valley Dr for ½ mile. Turn Left onto the I-37 North Ramp (left side). Continue on I-37 (also US-281) for 2.6 miles. Use the right 2 lanes to take exit 139 for US 90 W/US 87 N/Interstate 10 W toward El Paso. Continue west to Probandt. (FIRST Exit) take exit 573. At light (Probandt) take a left under IH 10 to Mitchell St for 0.2miles. Take a Left at Mitchell to 310. (about 0.2miles). On the Right. Meet at Education Building. [Google Maps \(click here\)](#)

S-02: San Antonio Botanical Garden (FULL)



San Antonio is proud of its Botanical Garden displaying both native and non-native plants from around the world. We have arranged for a 1 to 1 1/2 hour tour of our "Texas Native Trail" which will highlight the local ecoregions being featured during the 2018 Symposium! There are more than 250 plant species in collections that represent three ecosystems. In the East Texas Pineywoods, visitors find Pines, Sweetgum, Sassafras, and other acidic soil-loving woodland species. The Hill Country area features Live Oaks, Juniper, Texas Mountain Laurel, Eve's Necklace, Blanco Crabapple, Possum Haw, Hop-tree, Uvalde Maples, and other limestone tolerant plants. In the South Texas region, Dryland trees and thorny brush such as Torchwood, Mexican Olive, mesquite, Texas Ebony, and Huisache thrive.

On this Walk you'll learn about the medicinal uses of native plants as well as their historical and cultural uses, and which are favored by birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The Texas Natives Trail will be mostly on well maintained dirt paths and sidewalks with slight inclines. Before or after the tour you will have time to visit other areas of the garden such as the Lucile Halsell Conservatory, the Cactus and Succulent Garden and the Old Fashioned Garden. SABOT opens at 9 AM. Check out SABOT at <http://www.sabot.org/>



2018 Fall Symposium
October 18-21, 2018
Embassy Suites San Antonio
Brooks Hotel & Spa
7610 South New Braunfels

- A Meander Through the Native Plant Communities of the San Antonio River Basin
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Registration
- Accommodations
- Plenary Speakers
- NPSOT Grant Recipient Presentations
- Field Trips – Thursday, Friday & Sunday
 - Thursday Field Trips – October 18, 2018
 - Friday Field Trips – October 19, 2018
 - Sunday Field Trips – October 21, 2018
- Saturday Breakout Sessions
- Friday Night Dinner
- Schedule
- Invaders of Texas Workshop
- Symposium T-Shirts
- Vendors & Exhibitors
- Silent Auction & Quilt Raffle
- Video Contest
- Photography Contest
- Become a Sponsor
- Volunteer Opportunities

- Leader: Tom McKissick V, San Antonio NPSOT
- Time: 10 AM
- Level of Difficulty: Easy, flat to slight slopes; dirt and mostly paved paths, a 1 mile walk. Not easily wheelchair accessible.
- Maximum # – 15
- Cost: Admission to SABOT: Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Reciprocity with some other Garden Memberships
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 11 miles, 20 minutes
- Google Map Address: 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, Texas
- Website: <http://www.sabot.org/> Directions: San Antonio Botanical Gardens is located about 11 miles north of the Embassy Suites. Use Google maps to find your best route. For example, from the hotel turn right on S. New Braunfels Ave. In about a half mile, turn right onto Pecan Valley Drive. In another half mile turn left to enter North US 281 (also I-37). Stay on US 281 for 9.4 miles and take the Hildebrand Ave. exit. Turn right onto Hildebrand Ave. Proceed about one mile, crossing Broadway, and turn right on New Braunfels Ave. when Hildebrand ends at the golf course. In 0.6 miles, at the top of the hill, turn left onto Funston Place. Park in the large SABOT parking lot on the right and proceed to the entry kiosk. Pay admission and your tour will start at the kiosk at 10 AM.
- Google Map Directions: [San Antonio Botanical Garden](#)

S-03: Mitchell Lake Audubon

This unique and beautiful bird haven consists of the 600-acre Mitchell Lake, 215 acres of wetlands and ponds and 385 acres of upland habitat. Located on the northern edge of the South Texas plains ecoregion, it is not uncommon to see American White Pelicans by the hundreds resting among an assortment of water birds such as Northern Pintail, American Avocet, and Green Heron. The Center is nestled among a colorful garden of native plants that invites an assortment of birds, butterflies, and the occasional lizard.



Divided into 2 groups of 15 each. Both groups will tour both the native plant walk and Mitchell Lake Bird tour.

Tour A – Guided Native Plant Trail



Mitchell Lake is situated in the ecological/ vegetation region known as the South Texas Plains, also known as the South Texas Brush Country or Tamaulipan Thornscrub. More than 120 plant species have been identified on the site. Thorny brush is the predominant vegetation type in the region. Brush Country has a greater diversity of animal life than any other in Texas. It is home

for many near-tropical species prevalent in Mexico, many grassland species that range northward, and some desert species commonly found in the Trans-Pecos. Some ecologists refer to the entire South Texas-Northern Mexico scrubland region as the Tamaulipan Biotic Province.

- Accessibility” Distance Miles ¾ miles, wheelchair accessible/ path patted crush granite
- Guide – NPSOT-SA member guide /Audubon member.

Tour B – Guided Mitchell Lake bird tour via van / carpool.

On this guided bird tour around the various habitats of Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, guests will see 30-50 different bird species with our expert guide. Travelling by both car and by foot to access as many areas as possible.



- 3 miles via van/carpool, with some walking. Wheelchair access difficult.
- Accessible by your vehicle.
- Guide : Gilbert Martinez – Conservation & Operations Manager

Path 1 will starts with Native Plant Walk, then -Mitchell Lake Bird guided tour .

Path 2 will starts with Mitchell Lake Bird guided tour, then Native Plant walk .

- Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Level of Difficulty: See Tour A and Tour B – they are different.
- Cost: \$8 admission
- Maximum # of Attendees – 30
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 8 miles, 14 minutes
- Google Address: 10750 Pleasanton Rd. – Meet at Nature Store.
- Website: <http://mitchelllake.audubon.org/visit>

Directions: Mitchell Lake Audubon Center is located at 10750 Pleasanton Rd. in San Antonio, Texas. From the Brooks Embassy Suites, head northwest on S. New Braunfels Ave. Turn left onto SE Military Drive for 2.0 miles. Turn left onto Roosevelt Ave. and drive south for 2.3 miles. Turn right onto the S East Loop 410 access road and stay on the access road for 1.4 miles. Do not get onto Loop 410! Turn left onto Moursund Blvd and drive south (outside the loop) 0.7 mile. Immediately after Moursund Blvd. merges with Pleasanton Road, the Mitchell Lake gate is on the left. Meet at the Nature Store. Set Google Map destination as: 10750 Pleasanton Road, San Antonio. [Google Map Directions](#)

S-04: Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival – Participation



The 2018 Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival will be held in downtown San Antonio during our Symposium. Sunday's activities include a People for Pollinators Parade (Time not yet announced, but probably close to 10 AM) and a Butterfly Release at "High Noon". Five of the hundreds of butterflies tagged at the Festival last year made the successful trek to Mexico and were recovered on the forest floor there in March of 2018. There will also be a Farmer's Market, butterfly tagging demonstrations, and other activities.

- Individual Participation
- Time: 10 AM – 2 PM
- Level of Difficulty: Event will be accessible and covers several square blocks. Greatest difficulty will be finding parking! Those with accessibility concerns should be left off near the corner of Pearl Parkway and Avenue A (see directions).
- Cost: Free
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 10 miles, 16 minutes
- Address: 312 Pearl Parkway, San Antonio, Texas
- Website: [Texas Butterfly Ranch Festival](#)

Directions: From the Brooks Embassy Suites, head north on S. New Braunfels Ave. for 0.7 miles, turn right onto Pecan Valley Drive for 0.5 miles, and turn left onto the I-37/US 281 North ramp. Continue on US 281 North (center lanes) for 8.4 miles and take the St. Mary's St. exit where you will take two left turns to get back onto US-281 South! Proceed on US-281 South for 0.7 miles and take the Josephine St. exit which puts you on Grayson Street. Start looking for parking! Proceed south on Grayson St. for three blocks past Josephine to Pearl Parkway. The event is in "The Pearl" mixed-use development on your right. Parking might be more available on the west side of the river at E. Myrtle St. and E. Elmira St. There is a convenient foot bridge across the river at E. Myrtle.

[Google Map Directions](#)

S-05: Rudder Middle School Rain Garden Tour – Northwest San Antonio

Approximately two acres of the Earl Rudder Middle School campus has been converted into outdoor learning areas where students from all academic disciplines can incorporate nature and native plant studies into their education. This unique educational setting consists of pollinator gardens, wildflower meadows, and rain gardens has been recognized as a certified Wildlife Habitat by the TP&WD and the National Wildlife Federation. The Rudder Nature Area has been supported by grants from NPSOT – San Antonio Chapter, San Antonio River Authority, NPSOT, Lowe's, and the NWF.

We hope you can come visit us and see how our gardens assist students as citizen scientists!

- Guide : David Oberg – Science Teacher / Rain Garden designer
- Time: 10am – 12pm – Level of Difficulty: Guided tour 0.5 miles / Accessible – (concrete, asphalt and decomposed granite pathway)
- Maximum – 20 participants
- Cost – None
- Google Address : 6558 Horn Blvd, San Antonio, TX
- Distances from hotel – 24 miles, 33 minutes
- Youtube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9hJH2YIEi4>

Directions from the Hotel – follow [Google Map Directions](#). From Brooks Embassy Suites, head northwest on S. New Braunfels for 0.7 miles, turn right onto Pecan Valley Drive for 0.5 miles and turn left onto the I-37 North Ramp to I-37. Take I-37/US-281 north for 6 miles. Use the left lane to take exit 142B to merge onto I-35 South. In 0.4 miles, keep right to stay on I-35 South towards I-10 West towards El Paso. Continue a mile to exit right at Exit 156 onto I-10 West. Continue on I-10 West for 7.7 mile. Take exit 560 towards Ramsgate Drive/Huebner Road. Stay on the access road for 1.2 miles and turn left onto Huebner Road. In 0.6 miles on Huebner Road, turn right onto Research Drive/Prue Road. In 2 miles, turn left onto Babcock Road for 0.2 miles, then turn right on Horn Blvd. Rudder Middle School is on the left in 0.3 miles. Meet in front of the school and work your way to the back (look for signs)

S-06: William & Dolores Schumann Arboretum, Landa Park, New Braunfels





This arboretum is very convenient to I-35 and can be visited at your convenience due to the excellent "Arboretum Guide". The 55-tree guide can be viewed on a smartphone or notebook.

A limited number of the print version of the guides will be available for purchase during the symposium (\$5) as the park office is closed on Sundays. The Dolores and Bill Schumann Arboretum is home to over 80 species of trees (not all Texas natives) making it one of the most diverse arboretums in Texas. Tree #11 in the Guide is the enormous "Founder's Oak", a Texas Live Oak estimated to be about 350 years old. See if you can find the Paw Paw tree, not in the guide! In addition to the arboretum, Landa Park includes the headwaters of the Comal River with the largest flowing artesian spring in Texas.

The self-guided arboretum tour is 1.25 miles on paved walkways. View a downloadable arboretum guide book

at <https://www.nbtexas.org/1441/Arboretum>

A map of Landa Park and the Arboretum is on pages 32-33 of the guide (you may want to print the map if you are planning to use the on-line guide).

The Park Office is closed on Sundays. Plan to use the on-line arboretum guide (see above) or E-mail Bob at rbeetee@gmail.com and I will purchase a guide and make it available to you at the symposium for \$5. The Arboretum Trail starts at the Park Office and there is plenty of parking.

- Leaders: Self-Guided Walk with booklet.
- Time: 8AM to 5 PM
- Level of Difficulty: Easy, wheelchair accessible, flat to slight slopes; mostly paved paths, a 1.25 mile walk.
- Cost: None, optional printed booklet – \$5
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 40 miles, 50 minutes
- Google Map Address: 110 Golf Course Road, New Braunfels, TX (Park Office)
- Website: <https://www.nbtexas.org/1441/Arboretum>

Directions: From the hotel, head northwest on S. New Braunfels Ave. for 0.7 miles. Turn right onto Pecan Valley Drive and in 0.5 miles turn left onto the I-37/US 281 Ramp. In 6 miles, take Exit 142A on the right onto I-35 North towards Austin. Stay on I-35 North for 29 miles, take Exit 187 and turn west on Seguin Avenue towards downtown New Braunfels. Follow Seguin Avenue to Main Plaza (traffic circle) in downtown New Braunfels. Go halfway around the traffic circle and exit (right) back onto Seguin Avenue by the Courthouse. Immediately get into the left lane. [Hint: Seguin Avenue becomes Landa Street] At the second traffic light, turn right on Landa Park Drive at the entrance to Landa Park. Proceed about 1/3 mile on Landa Park Drive to Golf Course Road on your right. Park in the large parking lot. Refer to the map in the Arboretum guide and start wherever you like! [Google Directions](#)

S-07: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Gardens Guided Tour-- Austin, Texas



- The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is home to a stunning diversity of native Texas Plants and a "Mecca" for NPSOT members. This guided tour will explore the central gardens which demonstrate that beauty and sustainability are not mutually exclusive.



Study the Homeowner Inspiration Gardens to see how native plants work in naturalistic, contemporary, and formal styles.

The Texas Mixed Border is where Texas natives meet English cottage style gardening. The Luci and Ian Family Garden was created for children and families to immerse themselves in

the outdoors. Please leave time to visit other areas of the Wildflower Center, such as the Arboretum and research trail, at your own pace. There are also a nice Café and Gift Store.

- Leaders: LBJ Wildflower Center Docents
- Time: 10:30 AM Tour – about 90 minutes.
- Level of Difficulty: Easy, wheelchair accessible, flat to slight slopes; mostly paved paths, a 1 mile walk.
- Max # of Attendees: 15
- Cost: Admission to LBJWC: Adults \$10, Seniors \$8, Reciprocity with some other Garden Memberships [NOTE: LBJWC has waived their tour fee for our field trips! Thank You!]
- Distance from Symposium Hotel: 95 miles, 95 minutes

- Google Map Address: 4801 La Crosse Ave, Austin, TX
- Website: <https://www.wildflower.org/>

Directions: The LBJ Wildflower Center is in South Austin about seven miles west of I-35. From the hotel, head northwest on S. New Braunfels Ave. for 0.7 miles. Turn right onto Pecan Valley Drive and in 0.5 miles turn left onto the I-37/US 281 Ramp. In 6 miles, take Exit 142A on the right onto I-35 North towards Austin. Stay on I-35 North for 68 miles to south Austin, take Exit 227 (Slaughter Road) and turn left (West) on Slaughter Road. Proceed about 6.5 miles and turn Left (South) on Mo Pac Expressway (Route 1). Proceed South about one mile, you will see signs to the Wildflower Center. Turn Left on La Crosse Ave. and proceed to the LBJWC parking lot. Follow signs to the entrance kiosk and pay admission. Our guide will meet us at the entrance kiosk at 10:30 AM. [Google Map Directions:](#)

S-o8: I-35 Bell County Northbound Safety Rest Area



You have probably heard of the Monarch Waystations which have been installed at rest stops in Hill County and Bell County. The joint project by NPSOT, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Texas Department of Transportation features native pollinator plants as nectar sources for migrating monarch butterflies. Since our Symposium will be held during the height of the monarch migration, it might be interesting to see how many monarchs stop in! Learn more at: <https://npsot.org/wp/education/interstate-35-monarch-waystations/> The native plant beds are just in front of the Welcome Center. And, who can pass up a beautiful Rest Stop??

A member of the Tonkawa Chapter of NPSOT will be available from 12 AM to 2 PM to explain the project and plantings.

Directions: Bell County Northbound Safety Rest Area can only be accessed from the Interstate, I-35. Heading north on I-35, about one mile north of Prairie Dell, take Exit 281 to the rest area.



[Home](#) → [Saturday Breakout Sessions](#)

Saturday Breakout Sessions

There are four tracks you can choose, or mix and match.
Choose one in each time slot.

- Track A – Chapter Development (A1, A2, A3, A4)
- Track B – Plant and Animal Interactions (B1, B2, B3, B4)
- Track C – Ecosystems (C1, C2, C3, C4)
- Track D – How-To (D1, D2, D3, D4)

[To see tracks summary at a glance, click here.](#)



2018 Fall Symposium
October 18-21, 2018
Embassy Suites San Antonio
Brooks Hotel & Spa
7610 South New Braunfels

1:15 – 2PM

A1 – Nancy Masterson – (Chapter Development)

Creating Theme Gardens with Native Plants

Many chapters provide Plant of Month information to local nurseries. For the past three years, the Guadalupe NPSOT chapter has combined native plants into attractive and thematic gardens that customers want to bring home and try. Theme gardens include a Bird and Butterfly Habitat Garden and a Deer Resistant Border for deterring deer from entering the yard. The Pastel Colors Garden recommends natives with the loveliest colors in spring. The Mailbox Garden is for a sunny dry spot out by the road. The Moon Garden is best viewed in the evening. The Four Seasons Garden has color and interest all year long. Since every native plant tells a story of Texas history, the Story Garden celebrates the historical and ethnobotanical uses of native plants in South Central Texas. The presentation depicts each garden as an artist's rendition and as a planting diagram with recommendations for chapter strategies for successful promotion.

About Nancy Masterson

After a long career in public relations, Nancy Masterson joined American Forests, a national non-profit organization, where she developed community education programs on planting urban trees for energy conservation. Her public television series won the Florida Governor's Award for Outstanding Environmental Education. She was a Certified Arborist when she arrived in Texas in 1999. Nancy is a past president of the Texas Urban Forestry Council and the Guadalupe Valley Habitat for Humanity. She has been an invited speaker at numerous garden and civic clubs in the South Central Texas area, and she holds a B.A. in Communication from the College of Wooster, Ohio.

B1 – Wendy Leonard and Jewell Cozort – (Plant and Animal Interactions)

White-tailed Deer Impact the Growth and Distribution of Native Vegetation in South Central Texas

High densities of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) can have a negative impact on the growth and distribution of native vegetation, especially rare and endemic plants. They can also impact young sapling recruitment in central Texas woodlands thus altering the habitat composition of the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*). Here, we examine the management practices the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation-Natural Areas have put in place to protect these woody saplings. We will also examine the growth and distribution of a rare Texas annual, the Bracted Twistflower (*Streptanthus bracteatus*), and management practices taken to protect this species as well as other herbaceous plants from chronic herbivory.

About Wendy Leonard and Jewell Cozort

Wendy Leonard has been with the City of San Antonio for 12 years. She has been researching and monitoring *Streptanthus* since 2007. She currently oversees operations at Hardberger Park as well as other Natural Areas.

Jewell Cozort is a Park Biologist for City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation – Natural Areas. Her primary focus is on land management and ecological monitoring. Her projects include managing habitat diversity, endangered bird surveys and habitat management, invasive species removal, and surveys of the rare species called the Bracted Twistflower.

C1 – Jim Blackburn – (Ecosystems)

The Texas Coastal Exchange and the GBRA-TAP Agreement

This presentation will set out the concept of the Texas Coastal Exchange, a system developed at the SSPEED Center at Rice University to expedite the buying and selling of ecological services such as carbon sequestration, flood water storage and water supply base flow enhancement. This concept is proposed to be implemented within the framework of the agreement reached between the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority and The Aransas Project, two former litigants who have joined together to find solutions to enhance freshwater inflows into San Antonio Bay to benefit whooping cranes. TCX hopes to work with ranchers to provide funding for them to undertake adaptive multi-paddock grazing and other ranching techniques

- A Meander Through the Native Plant Communities of the San Antonio River Basin
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Registration
- Accommodations
- Plenary Speakers
- NPSOT Grant Recipient Presentations
- Field Trips – Thursday, Friday & Sunday
 - Thursday Field Trips – October 18, 2018
 - Friday Field Trips – October 19, 2018
 - Sunday Field Trips – October 21, 2018
- Saturday Breakout Sessions
- Friday Night Dinner
- Schedule
- Invaders of Texas Workshop
- Symposium T-Shirts
- Vendors & Exhibitors
- Silent Auction & Quilt Raffle
- Video Contest
- Photography Contest
- Become a Sponsor
- Volunteer Opportunities

and measure the resulting stored carbon and altered water balance. Implementation will result in restored native prairies within the Guadalupe River watershed and hopefully in enhanced cash flow to ranchers from oil and gas companies and water beneficiaries.

About Jim Blackburn

Jim Blackburn is an environmental lawyer and planner and a Professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Rice University where he also is co-director of the SSPEED Center, a faculty scholar at the Baker Institute and Director of the Energy and Water Sustainability minor. Blackburn published *A Texan Plan for the Texas Coast* through Texas A&M Press in 2017 which also published his *Book of Texas Bays* in 2004. Blackburn recently was named a Rice University Distinguished Alumni Laureate. He has also published a book of poems with artist Isabelle Chapman titled "Birds: A Book of Verse and Vision".

D1 – Cleveland Powell and Alicia Ramsey – (How-To)

D1a: Collecting and Growing Your Own Native Plants

Propagating your own native plants is a great way to add diversity to any pollinator garden. Come and learn the steps of selecting, collecting, and propagating native plants on a scale that works for the native plant hobbyist. You will learn reliable and tested methods through step by step visual guides that will give you the confidence to begin growing your own plants.

About Cleveland Powell

Cleveland Powell is a native plant enthusiast that loves to grow his own grasses, forbs, vines, trees and shrubs. He has propagated plants for residential gardens and a living roof in Fort Worth and continues growing natives for his home in San Antonio. He currently works in the Conservation Department of San Antonio Water System as an Irrigation Consultant.

D1b: Propagation and Use of Native Plants for Stabilization along the San Antonio River

A variety of low-cost approaches have been used to propagate native plants for use in stabilizing the banks of the San Antonio River in the Mission Reach project. These native plants help hold the banks in place and they also promote the health and revitalization of the riparian ecosystem. This presentation will highlight sustainable landscape techniques using specific native plants, needs for stabilization in an urban river, and lessons learned from testing and using various native plants to quell erosion in the riparian zone.

About Alicia Ramsey

Alicia Ramsey is a Stormwater Scientist with the San Antonio River Authority. She worked on the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration project on the San Antonio River for nearly six years as a Riparian Landscape Technician. During her time working on the Mission Reach, she grew a deep appreciation of native plants and the wildlife and benefits that flourish from them, especially insects. Alicia has a Bachelor of Science in Geography with a focus on Water Resources from Texas A&M University.

2:15 – 3PM

A2 – Rheda Boardman, Craig Childs and Brenda Fest – (Chapter Development) ***Boerne Chapter Youth Photo Contest***

Four years ago, Boerne NPSOT started a new program: The Youth Photo Contest. The idea was to involve the youth of Boerne and encourage them to learn about native plants. It's founder, Rheda Boardman, struggled to launch this program the first year, but after that she formed a committee that coordinates this project beginning in January of each year, concluding in June and includes publicity to generate submissions; soliciting donations from local businesses for prizes, which includes educating these businesses about NPSOT and native plants; putting together a panel of judges; coordinating with the public elementary, middle and high schools, Montessori Schools in addition to the homeschool community; soliciting volunteers from the local NPSOT membership to conduct workshops for students to educate them about native plants as well as basic instruction in photography; and announcing winners in local newspapers and displaying winning photographs in the public library and other public places.

About Rheda Boardman

Rheda Boardman is the project Leader for this project. Rheda has been actively involved in developing and implementing this project. She is a Hill Country Master Naturalist and an active Member of the Boerne NPSOT Chapter.

About Craig Childs

Craig Childs has assisted with the workshops conducted for the youth photo contest. He is a Hill Country Master Naturalist and an active Member of the Boerne NPSOT Chapter.

About Brenda Fest

Brenda Fest has coordinated the programs for Boerne NPSOT for the past two years. She is a Hill Country Master Naturalist and an active Member of the Boerne NPSOT Chapter.

B2 – Ben Pfeiffer – (Plant and Animal Interactions)

Fireflies of Texas: Glowing, Glowing, Gone

A highly educational and fun talk on the types of fireflies (*Lampyridae*) in Texas. Ben will be presenting his research on Texas firefly taxa with an emphasis on Central & South Texas fireflies that occur in nearby river basins and riparian areas. Ben will discuss why fireflies flash

and now they use light to communicate to potential mates. He will show attendees how to identify Texas firefly species and discuss specific threats to why fireflies are disappearing in many areas of Texas. He will also talk on how to create a good habitat for fireflies, plants that they love, and gardening tips for encouraging them to your land.

About Ben Pfeiffer

Ben is founder of Firefly Conservation & Research at Firefly.org. He got his start with fireflies in 2009 after hearing about firefly disappearance in parts of the U.S. The website was created to educate why fireflies are under threat and on how to help keep fireflies from disappearing and is currently the internet's most visited website about fireflies. Ben's work focuses on Texas firefly species. He is working on understanding their distribution across the state by developing a field guide and documenting new and existing species. Ben studied Biology at Texas State University and is a certified Master Naturalist.

C2 – Justin Krobot and Dr. Jeffrey Hutchinson – (Ecosystems)

Riparian Woodland Restoration on the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River

This presentation will cover the Mission Reach Woody planting program including the benefits, challenges, and future opportunities. Details will be provided regarding various successes and challenges, community engagement, planting for erosion control, and long-term maintenance for the urban tree canopy along the Mission Reach.

About Justin Krobot

Justin Krobot is the Superintendent for the San Antonio River Authority currently responsible for the operations and maintenance of the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project. Justin earned a bachelor in Parks and Natural Resource Management from Texas A&M University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas San Antonio. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, mountain biking, and learning more about the natural environment.

D2 – Jake Aalfs, RLA – (How-to)

Native Plants for Bioretention

This presentation explores the use of native plants for bioretention features including residential and commercial rain gardens. It covers plant selection, placement and benefits. Multiple examples representing a variety of design styles from San Antonio will be highlighted. This presentation will cover the basics from planning the feature to its long-term maintenance.

About Jake Aalfs, PLA

Jake Aalfs is a Professional Landscape Architect in the Environmental Science Department at the San Antonio River Authority. His responsibilities include promoting the use of low impact development methods in order to protect the San Antonio River Watershed. He has designed many native plant landscape features including bioretention/rain garden, turf conversion, formal garden and wildscape plantings. Jake has a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and a Master of Landscape Architecture from California State Polytechnic University Pomona.

3:15 – 4PM

A3 – Sherry Hess and Cecil Carter – (Chapter Development)

A3a: Growing Your Chapter with a Grant Program

San Antonio NPSOT Grant Committee Chair Sherry Hess will tell the story of the chapter's vision, development and management of their 4 year grant program. Conceived to increase member participation and use the proceeds of biannual plant sales, the program has evolved into a cornerstone of the chapter. Attendees will learn the step-by-step process of developing a grant program for their chapter.

About Sherry Hess

Sherry Hess is a longtime member of the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society. She has served as the volunteer coordinator for many years. Her mission for the preservation of the natural world is to infect as many people as possible with the native plant bug.

A3b: Holding a More Successful Native Plant Sale

This program explores the basics of holding a successful Native Plant Sale. In Trinity Fork's case, planning for the sale begins six (6) months before the event. Using the basics outlined and discussed in this workshop consistently generates \$6,000 of annual sales of native plants. Nothing is difficult; it is just organizing six areas: [1] The venue and timing, [2] Product, [3] Pricing, [4] People, [5] Promotion and [6] teamwork. In this workshop, you will learn the simple how to plan and organize your own successful plant sale. Another "take away" is a handout provided which follows the PowerPoint so note taking will be minimized.

About Cecil Carter

Cecil Carter is a member of the Trinity Forks Chapter and is currently President of NPSOT. He attended S M U, University of Houston and University of Oklahoma; and he taught on the Adjunct Faculty at Oklahoma State University's Oklahoma City Branch for twenty years. He has completed all three levels of the NLCP. Cecil has owned his consulting practice for the past 20 years. He has presented this program in a longer format at previous symposia.

B3 – Jessica Beckham – (Plant and Animal Interactions)

Identifying and Attracting Texas Bumble Bees

Bumble bees are declining worldwide, and Texas species are no exception. This program will discuss the natural history of bumble bees, the identification of Texas species, and the best native plants for attracting these fabulous pollinators to your garden. In addition, attendees will learn ways to become involved in citizen science monitoring of Texas bumble bees.

About Jessica Beckham

Jessica Beckham is a lecturer in the Environmental Science and Ecology department at UTSA. She earned her PhD in environmental science at the University of North Texas, where her research focused on the conservation of native Texas bumble bees. Recent work has involved documenting the range and taxonomic status of the Sonoran bumble bee across the state of Texas.

C3: Establishment of Aquatic Macrophytes in Different Water Velocities and Sediment Types within the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River

Aquatic macrophytes contribute to the biodiversity of streams by providing structure and cover for epiphytes, invertebrates, and fish, stabilizing substratum with roots and rhizomes, trapping and re-suspension of nutrients, and increasing habitat diversity by altering water velocity. In this study, macrophytes were planted in different water velocities and sediment types in static sites, within the channel, and at the riparian-littoral edge utilizing monoculture and polyculture (n = 5 species) plots. Species planted included *Bacopa monnieri*, *Eleocharis rostellata*, *Heteranthera dubia*, *Hydrocotyle umbellata*, *Justicia americana*, *Ludwigia repens*, *Paspalum distichum*, *Potamogeton illinoensis*, and *Sagittaria platyphylla*. Monitoring occurred monthly and survival, growth, competitiveness, and natural recruitment were evaluated. The results of the initial stage of the project will be reported at the conference. The goals of the study are to determine resilient macrophytes that can withstand extreme discharge and utilize these species to establish macrophytes in other areas of the river.

About Jeffrey Hutchinson, PhD

Jeffrey Hutchinson is an assistant professor in the Environmental Science and Ecology Department at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He earned his BS in Wildlife Ecology and Forestry and PhD in Agronomy (Weed Science focus) from the University of Florida (UF), and MS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Kentucky. He has worked for the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, Florida Park Service, Archbold Biological Station, UF Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. His research interests are in the conservation and ecology of native aquatic and riparian plants, habitat restoration, and invasive plants.

D3 – Donald Ewers – (How-to)

An Adventure in Home Rain Gardening

Rain tends to be a bit fickle here in San Antonio. Anyone who has lived here for any length of time is well aware our South Texas climate is characterized by perpetual drought periodically broken by torrential rain. When it does rain, managing storm water runoff becomes something of a challenge. This presentation features a home re-landscaping project inspired by the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project of the San Antonio River and considerable training in Low Impact Design (LID) techniques from San Antonio River Authority staff. It encompasses a storm water management system of rain gardens and swales highlighted with a diverse array of native plants, creating a unique, low maintenance, sustainable wildscape.

About Donald Ewers

Donald Ewers is the Vice-president of the San Antonio Chapter of NPSOT, an instructor in the San Antonio chapter's Native Landscape Certification Program, Vice-president of Alamo Area Master Naturalist, the Texas Master Naturalist liaison to the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and a member of SARA's Environmental Advisory Committee.

4:15 – 5PM

A4 – Bill Hopkins – (Chapter Development)

NPSOT Strategic Direction

The Planning Committee is developing a "strategic plan" for the organization. This workshop is an opportunity for members to discuss the proposed plan with the committee, and offer their input. Member comments will be considered when the final version of plan is written. You can read the current draft of the plan at <https://npsot.org/wp/sp/>.

About Bill Hopkins

Bill Hopkins is one of the members of the Planning Committee which has been working on the Strategic Plan. Bill is also a past president of the Society and is the state webmaster.

B4 – Roger Sanderson – (Plant and Animal Interactions)

Native Texas Hummingbird Plants

Texas is home to 18 different species of hummingbirds, more than any other state! This is due not only to the diverse habitats and climates found across our huge territory, but probably also because of the extensive plant diversity found here within our borders. This presentation illustrates the tremendous array of native Texas flowers visited by hummingbirds and focuses on those preferred by these amazing aerial acrobats! To help understand why this ecological interrelationship exists, the biology of hummingbirds is also investigated.

About Roger Sanderson

Roger "the Snake Man" Sanderson has been Director of Horticulture for the Texas

Discovery Gardens for over 5 years and was the Director of Botanical Gardens /Wildlife Biologist at the Heard Natural Science Museum for the prior 11 years. A specialist on Pollinator Gardens, he created a nationally-acclaimed Butterfly Garden at Texas Discovery Gardens, and gardens at the Heard Museum, Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, Dallas Mayor's Pollinator Garden, and numerous DFW area schools. Roger had a weekly column for several years in the Dallas Morning News on plants and gardening and continues to write articles about nature in several publications.

C4 – Deedy Wright and Cheryl Hamilton – (Ecosystems)

C4a: I'm Being Invaded! What Can I Do?

This presentation will cover what is meant by the word "invasive" and why invasives are problematic for native plant communities including reasons why they are so successful. The Texas Department of Agriculture's official Noxious and Invasive Plant List will be explained and invasive plant resources will be described including what you can do in your own yard and community.

About Deedy Wright

Deedy Wright is a life-long Texas gardener and retired secondary English and social studies teacher. Her particular interests are in native plants, xeriscape, and wildlife. She has been an active member of the Native Plant Society of Texas since 1995 and helped organize the Guadalupe County Chapter of NPSOT in 2007. She is currently serving on the NPSOT state board as the V-P, Education; and she serves on the Steering Committee of the Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) and is also an NLCP instructor.

C4b: Managing Invasive Plants in the San Antonio River Basin

Invasive plants are wreaking havoc on our ecosystems, particularly in our riparian habitats. In the San Antonio River Basin, the top ten most problematic invasive plants form monocultures; displace and compete with native plants; and alter hydrologic conditions, soil characteristics, nutrient flow and fire patterns. Strategies for prevention, management and replacement of these species will be shared.

About Cheryl Hamilton

Cheryl Hamilton is a Citizen Scientist with the Balcones Satellite of the Invaders of Texas program and an Alamo Area Master Naturalist. Since 2007, she has volunteered more than 5,000 hours to identify, eradicate and replace invasive plants. Cheryl trains citizen scientists and offers workshops on invasive plants to groups at the local, state and national levels. In 2015 Cheryl received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award from Barack Obama for contributing to this effort. Her motto is: Stop the Spread, Spread the Word, Just Do It!

D4 – Phillip Dormont, Beyrl Armstrong and Jamie Biel – (How-To)

Gathering Edible Native Texas Plants for Botanical Elements in a Foraged Texas Gin

Treaty Oak Distilling is proposing to create recipes for seasonal Texas gins and cocktails flavored by a combination of native plants and traditional flavoring agents (known in the industry as botanicals). These gins and cocktails will showcase the diversity of Texas plants while highlighting their usefulness and the importance of protecting native plant diversity. The presenters will describe the flavor profiles needed to achieve the desired flavors (e.g. Juniper, citrus, spiced, floral, etc.) and discuss how some of these flavors are currently being provided by specific plants. There will be an open discussion with the audience of plants that might fit the various flavor profiles and a wrap up of the discussion, with suggestions of ways to sustainably gather and/or propagate the needed plants and the possibility of using these foraging efforts as fundraising opportunities. The presentation will finish with an offering of samples of a locally foraged gin and native plant-based craft cocktails.

About Phillip Dormont, Beyrl Armstrong, and Jamie Biel

Phillip Dormont developed an interest in the local distilling culture while attending Belmont College in Nashville, TN. He spent several months interviewing local moonshiners in the Carolina Hills before returning to Texas to find himself in the middle of a craft distilling boom. When Treaty Oak Distilling moved their operations to Dripping Springs, Phillip jumped into the industry and worked his way up to Head Distiller. As the Director of Product Development, he oversees the quality of the products and develops recipes for the slate of Treaty Oak products which focus on Bourbon and Gin, but include other seasonal releases.

Beyrl Armstrong founded Plateau Land and Wildlife Management, Inc. in Dripping Springs in 1997, and works with landowners to enjoy, conserve, and protect their most valuable asset, their land. Beyrl's interest in providing landowners with new and exciting ways to look at nature, combined with his interest in fine spirits drew him into the Texas Foraged Gin project as a volunteer consultant. Beyrl hopes to use his knowledge of Texas native plants and friendships and connections in the Texas native plant community to further the development of craft industry in his community and the appreciation of native Texas plants.

Jamie Biel's passion for plants is rooted deep in the Texas soil. Her youth was spent climbing pecan trees, picking stickers out of bare feet, and following game trails through overgrown Mustang Grapevines. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Botany from Texas State University. As the Director of Science and Sustainability at Treaty Oak Distillery and Brewery, she feels a connection to and an urge to protect these 28 acres in

Dripping Springs, water and energy efficiency updates, rainwater harvesting, gardening and aquaponics, riparian zone restoration, and native plant propagation top her list of responsibilities.

NPSOT 2018 Fall Symposium

Saturday Breakout Sessions

	Breakout A: Chapter Development		Breakout B: Plant & Animal Interactions		Breakout C: Ecosystems		Breakout D: How-To	
1:15-2:00	A1	Creating Theme Gardens with Native Plants, Nancy Masterson	B1	White-tailed Deer Impact the Growth and Distribution of Native Vegetation in South Central Texas, Wendy Leonard and Jewell Cozort	C1	The Texas Coastal Exchange and the GBRA-TAP Agreement, Jim Blackburn	D1	Collecting and Growing Your Own Native Plants, Cleveland Powell Propagation and Use of Native Plants for Stabilization along the San Antonio River, Alicia Ramsey
2:15-3:00	A2	Boerne Chapter Youth Photo Contest, Rheda Boardman, Craig Childs and Brenda Fest	B2	Fireflies of Texas: Glowing, Glowing, Gone., Ben Pfeiffer	C2	Riparian Woody Vegetation on the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River, Justin Krobot	D2	Native Plants for Bioretention, Jake Aalfs, RLA
3:15-4:00	A3	Growing Your Chapter with a Grant Program, Sherry Hess Holding a More Successful Native Plant Sale, Cecil Carter	B3	Identifying and Attracting Texas Bumble Bees, Jessica Beckham, PhD	C3	Establishment of Aquatic Macrophytes in the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River, Jeffrey Hutchinson, PhD	D3	An Adventure in Home Rain Gardening, Donald Ewers
4:15-5:00	A4	NPSOT Strategic Direction, Bill Hopkins	B4	Native Texas Hummingbird Plants, Roger Sanderson	C4	I'm Being Invaded! What Can I Do?, Deedy Wright Managing Invasive Plants in the San Antonio River Basin, Cheryl Hamilton	D4	Gathering Edible Native Texas Plants for Botanical Elements in a Foraged Texas Gin, Phillip Dormont, Beyrl Armstrong, and Jamie Biel



[Home](#) -- [Friday Night Dinner](#)

Friday Night Dinner

Come enjoy fellowship with other NPSOT members, music, good food and tour the extensive native pollinator garden along the river!

Dinner will be served at [Mission County Park #1](#), approximately three miles from the Embassy Suites.

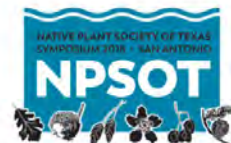
To attend, you must purchase a \$10 ticket while registering for the symposium.

Dinner in the park will be catered by [Nicha's Comida Mexicana Restaurant](#). A South San Antonio favorite since 1977, Nicha's has become a local Tex-Mex culinary legend featuring classic homestyle Mexican flavors. Food will be served at the Rotunda Pavilion inside the park.

Entertainment will be provided by [David Wayne and Doc Williams](#). Hailing from Bandera, Texas, David Wayne and Dr. Gene "Doc" Williams have been a fixture on the country and southern rock music scene for over 30 years.

Attendees will gather at the Embassy Suites and carpool to the park, or travel on their own.

- Guest tickets may be also purchased during registration.
- BYOB canned beer or boxed wine – absolutely no glass containers allowed in the park.
- Mission Park is ADA compliant, so please don't hesitate to join us!



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Brooks Hotel & Spa
7610 South New Braunfels

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[Home](#) → [Schedule](#)

Schedule

The schedule below is subject to change without notice. Finalized schedules will be handed out at the symposium.

Thursday, October 18

Start Time	End Time	Activity	Location
1:00 pm	5:00 pm	"on the way" field trips	
6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Welcome reception	Espada

Friday, October 19

Start Time	End Time	Activity	Location
7:15 am	12:00 pm	Registration and T-shirt sales	Entrance Hall
7:15 am	12:00 pm	Deliver silent auction items to auction check-in table	San Juan
7:15 am	1:00 pm	Exhibits and vendors open	Entrance Hall
7:30 am	8:00 am	Coffee and breakfast breads	TBD
8:00 am	8:15 am	Welcome and introductions	San Jose
8:15 am	9:00 am	Presentation Gregg Eckhardt, San Antonio Water System	San Jose
9:00 am	9:15 am	Official San Antonio Welcome Judge Wolff	San Jose
9:15 am	10:00 am	Presentation Julia Murphy, Office of Sustainability and Laurie Brown, San Antonio Zoo	San Jose
10:00 am	10:15 am	Break	
10:15 am	11:00 am	Presentation Lee Marlowe, San Antonio River Authority	San Jose
11:00 am	12:30 pm	Lunch	Espada
11:30 pm	12:30 pm	State Board Meeting	San Jose
12:30 pm	1:00 pm	Travel to field trip	
1:00 pm	4:00 pm	Field trips	Various Locations
6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Dinner (catered)	Mission Park Rotunda Pavilion

Saturday, October 20

Start Time	End Time	Activity	Location
7:15 am	12:00 pm	Registration & speaker check-in, t-shirt sales	Entrance Hall
7:15 am	5:00 pm	Silent auction open	San Juan
7:15 am	5:00 pm	Exhibits and vendors open	Entrance Hall
7:15 am	5:00 pm	Far South Nursery Native Plant Sale	Side Patio adjacent to Conference Center
7:30 am	8:00 am	Coffee & breakfast breads	TBD



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8:00 am	8:10 am	Announcements & introductions	San Jose
8:15 am	9:00 am	Presentation Sky Jones-Lewey, Nueces River Authority	San Jose
9:00 am	9:15 am	Break	
9:15 am	10:00 am	Presentation Forrest Smith, Cesar Kleberg Wildlife Research	San Jose
10:00 am	10:15 am	Break	
10:15 am	11:00 am	Presentation Pat Merkord, Native Prairie Association of Texas	San Jose
11:00 am	11:15 am	Presentation Marion Donald, 2017 AMG Grant Recipient	San Jose
11:15 am	11:30 am	Presentation Seth Hamby, 2018 AMG Grant Recipient	San Jose
11:30 am	11:45 am	Break	
11:45 am	12:45 pm	Lunch and Annual Membership Meeting	Espada
12:45 pm	1:15 pm	Room prep for breakout sessions	San Jose, Concepcion, San Juan, Espada
1:15 pm	2:00 pm	Breakout session A1	San Jose
		Breakout session B1	Concepcion
		Breakout session C1	San Juan
		Breakout session D1	Espada
2:00 pm	2:15 pm	Break	San Juan
2:15 pm	3:00 pm	Breakout session A2	San Jose
		Breakout session B2	Concepcion
		Breakout session C2	San Juan
		Breakout session D2	Espada
3:00 pm	3:15 pm	Break	San Juan
3:15 pm	4:00 pm	Breakout session A3	San Jose
		Breakout session B3	Concepcion
		Breakout session C3	San Juan
		Breakout session D3	Espada
4:00 pm	4:15 pm	Break	
4:15 pm	5: pm	Breakout session A4	San Jose
		Breakout session B4	Concepcion
		Breakout session C4	San Juan
		Breakout session D4	Espada
5:00 pm	5:15 pm	Final bidding on auction items	San Juan
	6:00 pm	Pay for and pick up auction items	San Juan
6:30 pm	9:00 pm	Awards Banquet Presentation Gail Gallegos	Espada

Sunday, October 21

Start Time	End Time	Activity	Location
10:00 am	4:00 pm	"On the way" field trips	Various Locations



[Home](#) [Invaders of Texas Workshop](#)

Invaders of Texas Workshop

Join an Invaders of Texas Workshop

Invaders of Texas Citizen Scientists training has been scheduled around the NPSOT Symposium dates to make it convenient for you to attend. Two advanced Sentinel Pest Network training sessions are planned the Wednesday prior to and the Sunday after the annual symposium.

The workshops will be taught by Hans Lindel, Ph.D., Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Invasive Species Program Director

- Wednesday, October 17, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 21, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Both classes will be at Mission Branch Library, 3134 Roosevelt Avenue in San Antonio.

Invaders of Texas Citizen Scientists basic training will be offered the previous Saturday, October 13, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Mission Branch Library.

All classes are offered free of charge, but **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

Click [here](#) to register for one of these workshops



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[Home](#) → [Symposium T-Shirts](#)

Symposium T-Shirts

Pre-sale of symposium t-shirts has now closed. A limited number of t-shirts will be sold on-site.

Our symposium tees are 100% ring spun lightweight combed cotton. Soft and sturdy, the tees are latte-colored and sport this year's symposium logo – symbolically featuring the water of the San Antonio River with images of Texas natives.

The Women's style tees feature a scoop neckline, short sleeves and tapering near the waist. The Unisex style is a basic Man's tee with a crew neck and short sleeves. **Women's tees run a little small – you might want to order one size larger.**

Pre-Symposium Price \$18.00 (Order During Registration)
Price at Symposium \$20.00 (Limited Quantities)



Women's Style

Size	Bust Measurement
Small	35"-36"
Medium	37"-38"
Large	39"-41"
XL	42"-44"
2XL	45"-47"
3XL	48"-50"



Unisex Style

Size	Chest Measurement
Small	35"-37"
Medium	38"-40"
Large	41"-43"
XL	44"-46"



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2XL	47"-49"
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3XL	50"-52"
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[Home](#) — [Vendors & Exhibitors](#)

Vendors & Exhibitors

We are now accepting applications for 2018 Symposium Exhibitors and Vendors. Participation in the field trips, seminars and break-out sessions requires full registration. Meals are available at the hotel restaurant. **Deadline for application is September 1, 2018.** To reserve your space, download the [PDF form](#), fill it out and mail it, along with your check or credit card information, to:

2018 Symposium Exhibits
Native Plant Society of Texas
PO Box 3017
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Or email to: state@npsot.org

Booth space rental rates are as follows:

No Fee – NPSOT Chapter display
 No Fee – Sponsor or Speaker display
 \$30.00 – Staffed or unstaffed educational display with no sales
 \$90.00 – Vendor with sales

The Exhibit area will be open on Friday and Saturday. Symposium participants will be off premises Friday afternoon for field trips and on premises all day Saturday.

These businesses and organizations will be at our symposium:

[Botanical Research Institute of Texas](#) – Botanical publications
[Douglass King Seeds](#) – Seed samples and information
[Far South Wholesale Nursery](#) – Native plants for sale
[Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center](#) – Info on their nature trail
[Headwaters at Incarnate Word](#) – Info about the Headwaters Sanctuary
[Green Spaces Alliance](#) – Organization information
[Invaders of Texas/Balcones Invaders](#) – Info on Texas invasive plants
[Mission Kayak](#) – Kayak adventure tours on the San Antonio River
[Native American Seed](#) – Seed samples and info about native seeds
[SummerFish Studios](#) – Botanical art and Texas native wood utensils
[Texas Critter Books](#) – Author of *Butterfly Book: The Winged Ones II*
[The Twig Book Shop](#) – Books and related sidelines



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NPSOT Symposium 2018 – San Antonio

EXHIBITOR-VENDOR-SPONSOR SPACE APPLICATION

Deadline for Submission is September 1, 2018

Category: (check one)

- ☐ Staffed or unstaffed Educational exhibit (\$30)
☐ Vendor (\$90)

- ☐ Sponsor or Plenary Speaker (no fee)
☐ NPSOT Chapter exhibit (no fee)

Exhibitor or Vendor Fee Amount (from above): \$ _____

Note: Fee does not include symposium registration, meals or entrance to symposium events

Organization or Company Name _____

Contact Name and Title _____

Contact Email Address _____

Best Contact Phone #'s _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Fees pay for a 6' x 30" draped table.

Check if an electrical outlet is requested: _____

For Listing in Symposium 2018 Materials and on NPSOT Website (information will need to be received by 9/15/18):

Website Address _____

Title of Display, Exhibit, Sponsor, Speaker or Vendor _____

Brief Description of Display or Exhibit Booth _____

Method of Payment (check one)

☐ Check (payable to Native Plant Society of Texas or NPSOT)

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Card# _____ - _____ - _____

☐ Discover

☐ American Express

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

3 numbers on the back of VISA, MC and Discover/4 numbers on the front of American Express

Total amount due \$ _____

Would you like to donate an item(s) to our silent auction benefitting the Ann Miller Gonzalez Research Grant fund?

☐ Yes

☐ No If yes, please describe _____

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Mail to Native Plant Society of Texas, PO Box 3017, Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Email – state@npsot.org • Phone – 830.997.9272

The Native Plant Society of Texas is a 501(c)(3) organization

To register for the event or for more symposium information visit <https://npsot.org/wp/symposium2018/friday-schedule/>



Home – [Silent Auction & Quilt Raffle](#)

Silent Auction & Quilt Raffle

Our 2018 Symposium will feature a silent auction to benefit the [Kate Hillhouse Scholarship](#) and [Ann Miller Gonzales Research Grant](#) funds. The auction and the quilt raffle are *our only annual fundraisers for these programs* that offer educational scholarships to undergraduate students and research grants to graduate students involved in Texas native plant studies.

If you would like to donate items for the event, please fill out the top portion of the [silent auction form](#) and bring it, along with your items, to the conference. Auction items can be turned in at the registration table Thursday night or Friday morning.

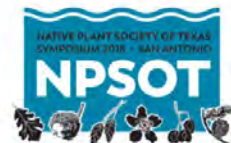
If you are not attending the symposium, fill out the same form and mail it, along with your items, to:

2018 Silent Auction
Native Plant Society of Texas
Post Office Box 3017
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

UPS and Fedex will not deliver to PO boxes, so please mail the items through the US Postal system. **Deadline for mailing is October 1, 2018.**

Quilt Raffle

This year's raffle quilt was made and contributed by Sammie Childers of the Highland Lakes Chapter. Many thanks to Sammie for her hard work for the Society.



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NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Silent Auction Bid Sheet
October 2018 – San Antonio

Item: _____

Donated by: _____

Estimated Value: \$ _____ Minimum Bid: \$ _____

(Recommended minimum bid is 20% of item's estimated value)

NAME	BID (whole dollars only)

This section to be completed after silent auction closes.

Number of items won: _____ Total amount due: \$ _____

Pay Method: Cash () Check () # _____ MasterCard () Visa () Discover () Amex ()

Amex: 4 digits on front of card. **MC / Visa / Discover:** 3 digits on back of card. CVV # _____

Credit Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on credit card (print): _____

Address credit card is billed to: _____

Signature: _____ Phone: (____) _____



[Home](#) -- [Video Contest](#)

Video Contest

It's time for our annual Video Contest.

Wait! Don't go yet. Yes, this is for you. Don't be intimidated. Videos can be easy to make and a lot of fun. We invite you to try your hand at it. You might be surprised at what you are able to do with just a little thought and equipment that you probably already have at home.

The winning video will be awarded a cash prize of \$100 and be recognized during our Fall Symposium in San Antonio.

Videos should be at least 45 seconds in length and no more than 5 minutes maximum.

The contest is open to all our members and videos must feature some aspect of native plants or our organization.

Click [here](#) for complete details.



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[Home](#) -- [Photography Contest](#)

Photography Contest



2015 Best in Show Winner Photographed by Steven Schwartzman

Voting:

This year's photography contest is open for voting September 1 to September 30.

- Every NPSOT member is allowed one vote per ecoregion.
- Voter's name is required to vote.
- Vote's membership number (found on your state newsletter mailing label) is encouraged, but not required.
- For membership categories other than individual membership, each person covered by that membership will be allowed to vote once, one vote per ecoregion.
- Voting more than once will result in the disqualification all of your votes.

Click [here](#) to view the photo entries.

Click [here](#) to vote. (link will be active on September 1)

One winning contestant per each category will be announced at our awards banquet at the 2018 Fall Symposium on October 20, 2018.



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The Native Plant Society of Texas invites you to help underwrite the costs of the symposium. **By becoming a sponsor, you will help us fulfill one of the basic tenets of our Society's mission - educating the general public about the need to conserve Texas native plants.** Your donation will also help us make the symposium fee affordable to anyone that wants to attend and learn about the importance of native plants, in addition to offering special low rates to students and educators.

Donating online:

Online contributions are simple - click the link below, fill out the online form and make a note in the comment box that you want your donation to go to the symposium fund. No need to worry - all online donations and information are handled in a secure manner.

To donate online, click [here](#).

Mail-in donations:

Please mark your check clearly as a "Symposium Fund Donation". Mail your check to:

2018 NPSOT Symposium
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 PO Box 3017
 Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Our Sponsors

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of our symposium:

Corporate & Individual Sponsors

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[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)
[San Antonio Botanical Garden](#)
[Mitchell Lake Audubon Center](#)
[San Antonio River Foundation](#)

Our Chapter Sponsors

[Boerne Chapter](#)
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[Highland Lakes Chapter](#)
[Lindheimer Chapter \(New Braunfels/Comal Co.\)](#)
[North Central Chapter \(Ft. Worth\)](#)
[San Antonio Chapter](#)
[Trinity Forks \(Denton\)](#)
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[San Antonio Chapter](#)
[Trinity Forks \(Denton\)](#)
[Williamson County](#)



[Home](#) — [Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

We need some friendly faces to welcome visitors from other areas of our state to San Antonio and to staff various volunteer positions before and during the symposium. If you will be attending or live in the San Antonio area and would like to volunteer a few hours of your time to help the symposium run smoothly, [click here](#) and sign up.

The volunteer sign up process is quick and easy to do from your laptop, tablet or smartphone. You will receive an email confirmation once you have completed the process (usually received instantaneously, but occasionally there may be a several hour delay). Be sure to click on the final green button reading "Save and Done" or you will not have reserved your volunteer spot. Two days prior to your shift, you will receive an email reminder. You can go back into the above link at any time to check on or change your commitment.

You may want to check back from time to time as additional volunteer opportunities may be added or formerly "full" spots may reopen. If you are not registered to attend the symposium, you can still volunteer for one of these spots if you have a few hours of availability.

Thank you for helping us make the 2018 symposium a success!



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