



## Capit-O-lize on Natives: Contributions, Challenges, Conservation

The Native Plant Society of Texas will hold its 2015 annual symposium on October 15-18 at the Airport Hilton in Austin Texas.

The symposium will concentrate on the four [ecoregions](#) that surround the Texas state capitol – Post Oak Savannah, Blackland Prairies, Edwards Plateau and Cross Timbers, and show how these ecoregions have influenced adaptation and variance in plants and plant communities, as well as human interaction with the landscape.

There will be a great line-up of speakers from the local and surrounding Austin area. Our five plenary speakers are:

- [Dr. Andrew Sansom](#) – Executive Director of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, San Marcos
- [Robert Ayres](#) – Vice-President of Shield Ranch Foundation and President of El Ranchito, a nature discovery ranch for kids
- [Bill Carr](#) – Botanist for Acme Botanical Services and co-author of *Rare Plants of Texas*
- [Dr. Norma Fowler](#) – Professor for the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Texas, Austin
- [Dr. George Diggs](#) – Professor of Biology at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, Research Associate of the [Botanical Research Institute of Texas](#) and co-author of *Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas* and *Illustrated Flora of East Texas*

Friday field trips will include the post-fire area of Bastrop, [Balcones Canyonland National Wildlife Refuge](#), the Shield Ranch and the Spicewood Ranch.

On Saturday, twenty break-out speakers will give presentations on The Nature Conservancy programs, the history of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, Texas ecoregions and drought issues. Restoration efforts of several local tracts of land will also be discussed – Bastrop area, [Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park](#), [Yireo Nature Preserve](#) and Spicewood Ranch. Speakers will also discuss edible and useful plants of Texas, pollinators and eradication of invasive plants.

Other highlights will be a Silent Auction/Quilt Raffle benefiting the Kate Hillhouse Scholarship and Ann Miller Gonzales Research Grant Funds, a photography contest and a Thursday night reception at the [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)



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Hilton Austin Airport  
9515 Hotel Drive  
Austin, Texas

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## Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved at the host hotel for symposium participants at the rate of \$109 per night (+ tax). Please register early to make sure you get the special rate.

Note that all symposium registrants get a waiver for the hotel parking fee.

### Hilton Austin Airport 9515 Hotel Drive Austin, Texas

The Hilton Airport is in a great location away from downtown congestion. This unusual hotel was originally the headquarters for Bergstrom Airforce Base which served as a strategic air command center during the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War. In typical Austin manner, it was rescued from demolition and converted to a hotel and convention center that opened in 2001. [Read the story.](#)

#### Online reservations:

Reservations can be made online through the Hilton website [here](#).

#### Call-in reservations:

You can call 512-385.6767 to book your hotel room. Use the group code NATIVE.

#### Hotel information:

More detailed information about the hotel, including map/directions and amenities, can be found [here](#).

#### Campgrounds:

For information about campgrounds near the Hilton Austin Airport, click [here](#).

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## Registration

### Registration Hours:

3:00 pm to 5:00 and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm – Thursday, October 15

7:00 am to 12:00 noon – Friday, October 16

7:00 am to 12:00 noon – Saturday, October 17

*Due to space limitations, the online registration program does not include detailed descriptions of field trips and break-out sessions. Please read the complete descriptions on this website and make your choices **BEFORE** attempting to register.*

[Thursday Field Trip Descriptions](#)

[Friday Field Trip Descriptions](#)

[Sunday Field Trip Descriptions](#)

[Self-Guided Field Trip Descriptions](#)

**ATTENDEES:** We prefer that you register online by clicking the link below. Each attendee must register using their own unique email address. If you are not able to register online, please download the fillable registration form, complete it and email it to [state@npsot.org](mailto:state@npsot.org) or mail it to:

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

[Click here to download a registration form](#)

NPSOT Member Registration Fees	
<b>Complete Conference Package - Early Registration (up through September 24)</b> Includes all meals, field trips, speakers and break-out sessions	\$195
<b>Complete Conference Package - Late Registration (After September 24)</b> Includes all meals, field trips, speakers and break-out sessions	\$225
<b>Friday Only Package</b> - Includes breakfast, lunch, speakers and field trips	\$88
<b>Saturday Only Package</b> - Includes breakfast, lunch speakers and break-out sessions	\$88
<b>Friday &amp; Saturday Only Package</b> - Includes breakfast, lunch, speakers and break-out sessions	\$176

Non-Member Registration Fees	
<b>Complete Conference Package - Early Registration (up through Sept 24)</b> Includes all meals, field trips, speakers and break-out sessions	\$225
<b>Complete Conference Package - Late Registration (after Sept 24)</b> Includes all meals, field trips, speakers and break-out sessions	\$255
<b>Friday Only Package</b> - Includes breakfast, lunch, speakers and field trips	\$100
<b>Saturday Only Package</b> - Includes breakfast, lunch, speakers and break-out sessions	\$100
<b>Friday &amp; Saturday Only Package</b> - Includes breakfast, lunch, field trips, speakers and break-out sessions	\$199

**Please note:** If you order printed proceedings, they will be mailed to you after the symposium.

**Changed your mind about a field trip or break-out session?** You can go back in and make changes to your own agenda right up until we close online registration.

Just click on the online registration link above, enter the email address you used when you initially registered and click OK. When your original registration displays, click on "Change" at the bottom of the page, then make your changes.

If you want to make a change after online registration closes, please come see us at the on-site registration desk and we will make it for you.

We are pleased to offer special discounted rates for Educators and Students. If you want to make a donation to help underwrite these grants for Educators and Students, [click here](#). Please note in the comments that your donation is for the 2015 symposium.

Student & Educator Registration Fees	
<b>Student Package</b> - Includes all meals, field trips, speakers and break-out sessions	\$50
<b>Educator Package</b> - Includes all meals, field trips, speakers and break-out sessions	\$75

**EDUCATORS:** We are offering a discounted rate for educators of all grade levels. After registering, please complete [this form](#) and email it to [state@npsot.org](mailto:state@npsot.org). Failure to do so will invalidate your discounted Educator rate.

**STUDENTS:** We are offering a discounted rate for students currently enrolled at a college or university. After registering, please email an unofficial copy of your current transcript to [state@npsot.org](mailto:state@npsot.org). Failure to do so will invalidate your discounted Student rate.

**SPEAKERS:** We will register for you. Please download and fill out one of the following forms and email it to [state@npsot.org](mailto:state@npsot.org).

[Break-out Speakers Registration form](#)  
[Plenary Speaker's Registration Form](#)



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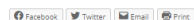
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## Symposium T-Shirt

There will be a very limited supply of t-shirts at the symposium, so be sure to order your t-shirt when you register online.



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Thursday Night Reception



**Event:** Reception at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15th  
**Time:** 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Come join us for light hors d'oeuvres at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Meet with friends, make new friends and wander through the garden areas to enjoy the native plants. All garden areas will be open to paid symposium attendees.

Maps & Directions

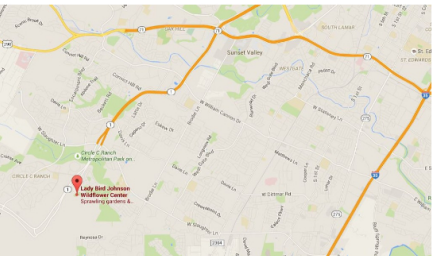
Directions from the Hilton to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Via TX-71 and TX-1 Loop S/MoPac Expy **19 min**  
18 min without traffic [Show traffic](#) 15.6 miles

- Hilton Austin Airport**  
9515 Hotel Drive, Austin, TX 78719
- Continue to TX-71/E Ben White Blvd  
2 min (1.3 mi)
  - Follow TX-71/E Ben White Blvd, US-290 W and TX-1 Loop S/MoPac Expy to La Crosse Ave  
15 min (13.9 mi)
  - Turn left onto La Crosse Ave  
2 min (0.4 mi)

**Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**  
4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin, TX 78739

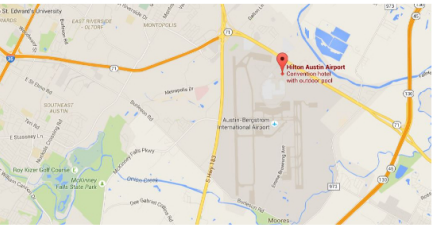
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Map



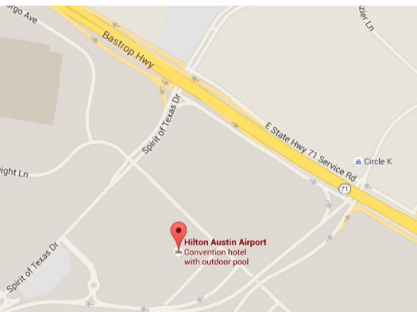
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Close-up Map



Hilton Austin Airport



Hilton Detail Map



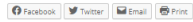
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## Plenary Speakers & Presentations

- **Bring: Writing pad, pen or pencil, sweater or jacket (rooms may be cool)**

### • [Friday, October 16 – 8:10 am – 9:00 am](#)

**Dr. Andrew Sansom** – Executive Director of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, San Marcos

#### **Water in Texas**

No natural resource is more important to our future than water. Fresh water is a finite resource. Its sustainability requires judicious management, particularly as pressures rise from agriculture, energy production, industrial uses and human consumption. Dr. Sansom will discuss how we manage our water for the health of our communities, the vitality of our commerce and culture and the sustainability of our environment.

*Dr. Andrew Sansom is one of Texas' leading conservationists. He is a former executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, executive director of The Nature Conservancy of Texas, and founder of the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas. His published works have appeared in Texas Monthly, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Texas Town & City. He now serves as Research Professor of Geography and Executive Director of The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University-San Marcos where he: coordinates university policy and research related to freshwater resources; manages the headwaters of the San Marcos River; administers the most extensive freshwater environmental education program in Texas; and supervises the training and coordination of more than 1000 volunteer water monitors in rivers and streams throughout the state. He is author of five books, including Water in Texas.*

### • [Friday, October 16 – 9:10 am – 10:00 am](#)

**Robert Ayres** – Managing Partner of the Shield Ranch

#### **Shield Ranch: Private Lands Conservation at the Edge**

The stewardship of rangelands at the edge of a wildland-urban interface can be a complex undertaking. Bob Ayres will offer an illustrated guide to the history and management of the 6,800-acre Shield Ranch, including wildlife and habitat management, science, preservation, advocacy, education, and outreach.

*Bob Ayres is a native of San Antonio. He is a third generation owner and the Managing Partner of the Shield Ranch, located on Barton Creek southwest of Austin. Ayres also serves as the President of El Ranchito, a nature immersion summer camp held on the Shield Ranch each summer, in collaboration with El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission and Westcove Outdoor Discovery Center. He has served on the boards of the Hill Country Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy of Texas. Currently, Ayres serves on the national board of the Land Trust Alliance. In recognition of their ongoing efforts in land stewardship, the Shield-Ayres family has received the Lone Star Land Steward Statewide Award from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, as well as the President's Conservation Achievement Award from the Nature Conservancy.*

### • [Friday, October 16 – 10:10 am – 11:00 am](#)

**Bill Carr** – Botanist for Acme Botanical Services and co-author of *Rare Plants of Texas*

#### **Observations of One Texas Botanist**

Bill's presentation will focus on the importance of the contributions to plant conservation by private landowners in Texas. As one who's been around for a long time, Bill can remember the era when landowners and conservationists were in opposite camps, and nothing got done. Fortunately, enough time has passed so that major changes in attitude from all sides are evident. Many private landowners are now willing to be involved, at varying levels, in plant conservation. This new attitude now puts the onus on botanists and native plant conservationists to get out and make something happen. That's a huge change. It's also a huge challenge, a happy challenge that leaves Bill optimistic about the future of plant conservation in Texas. Join Bill as he shares some stories about private landowners whom he has worked with who are happy to have rare plants on their lands.

*Bill Carr received a B. S. in botany from Ohio State University in December 1978 and wasted no time moving to Alpine, Texas in January 1979 and eventually relocating to Austin in 1981. He spent twenty-five years doing field work for Texas plant conservation programs, first with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and later with The Nature Conservancy of Texas. Since leaving TNCT in 2011, he has been working with private landowners to help identify the special plants and habitats on their properties. And since spring 2015, he has also been employed as one of the part-time assistant curators of the herbarium at the Plant Resources Center at the University of Texas, to which he has contributed about 20,000 specimens.*

### • [Saturday, October 17 – 8:10 am – 9:00 am](#)

**Dr. George Diggs** – Professor of Biology at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, Research Associate of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and co-author of *Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas* and *Illustrated Flora of East Texas*

#### **Toxic Native Plants, Toxic Human Foods: The Evolutionary Connections**

Plants, including many native to Texas, have evolved an amazing array of chemical defenses to protect themselves from herbivores. These include toxins that physically damage the plant eaters, disrupt their metabolisms, make the food they eat unusable, damage their hormone systems, make them extremely sensitive to light, and in some cases, even kill them. A great deal is now known about such effects on a wide variety of animals ranging from insects to mammals. The toxic or otherwise damaging compounds in plants eaten by animals will be compared with those consumed by humans (e.g., gluten, hormone mimics, photosensitizers, etc.). They will be looked at in the broader context of a widespread, evolutionarily very old, and never ending arms race between plants and animals.

*Dr. George Diggs is an evolutionary biologist and botanist who has taught for more than thirty years at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. His research interests include the plants of Texas, plant defense, evolution as it relates to human health, biogeography, and the systematics of the Ericaceae (the blueberry family). He has co-authored four books and more than thirty scientific articles and in his research he has traveled to all seven continents. His latest books are The Hunter-Gatherer Within: Health and the Natural Human Diet (2013) and The Ferns and Lycophytes of Texas (2014).*

### • [Saturday, October 17 – 9:10 am – 10:00 am](#)

**Dr. Norma Fowler** – Professor for the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Texas, Austin

#### **Issues of Conservation in Central Texas**

Plant conservation in central Texas is not just about endangered species. We cannot separate preserving endangered species from preserving biodiversity, and we cannot separate biodiversity from land management. Land management issues that are critical to plant conservation include: wildfires and prescribed fires; overgrazing; deer; non-native



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invasive species; and over-abundant native species such as juniper.

*Dr. Fowler received her BA from the University of Chicago, her PhD from Duke University, and also had a post-doctoral position at the University College of North Wales, Britain. She came to the University of Texas in 1979 as assistant professor and rose through the ranks to become Professor of Botany. The Botany discipline is now part of the Department of Integrative Biology at UT and she is Professor of Integrative Biology, with both undergraduate students and graduate students working on various research projects in plant population biology and plant ecology.*

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## Break-out Speakers & Presentations

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SESSIONS IN RED ARE ALREADY FULL**

- **Bring:** Writing pad, pen or pencil, sweater or jacket (rooms may be cool)

**PLEASE NOTE:** When you start the registration process, you will be asked to choose one presentation to attend from each break-out session. The following information will help you make the choices you prefer.

- **Session I – Saturday, October 17 – 12:40 pm – 1:30 pm**

### **IA. The Physiography of the Landscape and the Distribution of Plant Communities in Central Texas – Dr. David Lemke (THIS SESSION IS FULL)**

Four of the eleven major natural regions of Texas can be encountered within an hour's drive of the capital city: the Edwards Plateau, Blackland Prairies, Oak Woods and Prairies, and the Llano Uplift. Each of these regions has a distinctive physiography and physiognomy that has been shaped, in many cases, by millions of years of geologic history. This talk will focus on an introduction to the geographic, climatic, geologic, and edaphic factors that have combined to create these distinctive ecoregions, as well as on the major plant community types that characterize each region.

*David Lemke has been a student of the Texas flora for forty years. He received his bachelor's degree in biology from Bucknell University and his doctorate in botany from The University of Texas at Austin, where he studied under the supervision of Dr. Marshall C. Johnston. For the past thirty years he has taught courses in plant taxonomy and field botany at Texas State University and completed numerous environmental assessments for a variety of industries. His research interests include studies of the flora of Texas, the biology of aquatic plants, and the systematic anatomy of South African stapeliads. At the present time, the main focus of his research is a vegetation survey of the Christmas Mountains in Brewster County, Texas.*

### **IB. From a Park to a Prairie: The Story of Commons Ford – Ed Fair**

This is the story of how a group of determined but inexperienced individuals came together to build from scratch a strong volunteer organization, a diverse coalition of partners and a funding base which allowed the conversion of a forty acre field within a City of Austin park into a viable native prairie. We will discuss the trials and tribulations, as well as the many successes forged, in the short six-year history of this ongoing native prairie restoration project. The Commons Ford story can serve as a model for similar efforts, especially where the starting point consists of nothing more than a dogged commitment and a few individuals who would not take "no" for an answer.

*Ed Fair is a comparatively "new" but avid birder. He leads birding field trips throughout the Austin area, participates in numerous Christmas Bird Counts and conducts several breeding bird surveys around Texas for the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center within the USGS. He also proudly touts the fact that he has more yard species listed in eBird than any other Travis County birder! Ed is the founder and Executive Director of the Commons Ford Prairie Restoration Organization, which is the community organization behind the Commons Ford Prairie. When Ed is not birding, he is practicing law as a music attorney or teaching entertainment law as an adjunct professor at the University of Texas School of Law.*

### **IC. The Genus Yucca: Taxonomy, Fun Facts and Ethnobotany – Karen H. Clary, Ph.D.**

Yuccas, those botanical icons of the American West, are native to the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico. Combined, these two areas contain the majority of species (45 of the 55) that exist on the planet today. Many people are curious about how to tell the many species of yuccas apart. This paper will discuss how to identify yuccas and, in addition, provide information on why different species grow where they do (biogeography), how these plants have been made use of by people (ethnobotany), their pollination by a sole pollinator, the yucca moth, the fascinating history of taxonomic work done to date (from plant morphology to DNA research), and the conservation challenges facing these plants today.

*Karen Clary is the Manager of Plant Conservation programs at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin. Clary provides programmatic oversight for all conservation programs and teaches "Native Plants" for the Center's Go Native U programming. Dr. Clary holds a B.S. in Anthropology from Texas A & M University, College Station, an M.S. in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, and a Ph.D. in Botany from The University of Texas at Austin, where she studied speciation patterns, biogeography and taxonomy of Yucca L. Prior to coming to the Wildflower Center, Clary served as a Wildlife Habitat Resource Assessment Biologist at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin. She worked with public and private partnerships to promote wildlife conservation through use of environmentally friendly best practices on development projects. She was also the Lead Biologist for the Environmental Affairs Division at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, where she oversaw the agency's endangered plant conservation program. Clary is a Research Affiliate with The University of Texas at Austin, Plant Resources Center (Herbarium) and served as a contributor and scientific reviewer for the Flora of North America (Agave Family), Missouri Botanical Garden.*

### **ID. Spread the Word, Stop the Spread, Just Do It! – Lonnie & Judith Shockley, Cheryl Hamilton**

Join Invaders of Texas Citizen Scientists Cheryl Hamilton and Lonnie and Judith Shockley for strategies on how to recruit, train, inspire and retain volunteers to eliminate invasive plants in our communities. They will also share strategies for increasing awareness about invasive plants in the community through educational workshops and publications. During the past six years, the Balcones Satellite has trained 114 Citizen Scientists, contributed more than 4,300 volunteer hours to eradicate more than 37,000 invasive plants, offered multiple community outreach workshops and contributed more than 60 educational articles to newsletters and journals. Discover ways that you can spread the word and stop the spread in your community!

*Cheryl, Lonnie and Judith are current members of the Boerne and San Antonio chapters. They are Alamo Area Master Naturalists. They are team leaders of the Balcones Satellite of the Invaders of Texas Program. They have presented workshops at the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council Conferences in 2009, 2011 and 2014. In the fall of 2014, they presented a workshop about their successes to the National Invasive Species EDRR Advisory Committee Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Balcones Satellite team leaders Lonnie and Judith Shockley received the Nancy Benedict Award in 2014 for their contributions to conservation and public service in the field of Texas native plants. The Balcones Satellite was awarded the Outstanding Satellite of the Year from the Texas Invasive Plants and Pest Council in 2011. Balcones Satellite team leader Cheryl Hamilton received the Outstanding Citizen Scientist Award from the Texas Invasive Plants and Pest Council in 2011, and she received the President's Award of Excellence in 2011.*



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◦ [Session II – Saturday, October 17 – 1:45 pm – 2:35 pm](#)

IIA. Land Conservation for Plant Communities – David Bezanson

Land conservation efforts have succeeded in protecting some 4 million acres in Texas, but much work remains to be done. This presentation will discuss which critical plant communities still need protection and others which are relatively secure.

*David Bezanson is Land Protection and Easement Manager for The Nature Conservancy in Texas, working to acquire preserves and conservation easements statewide. Mr. Bezanson served as executive director of Texas Land Conservancy (formerly Natural Area Preservation Association). He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas-Austin.*

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IIB. Post-Wildfire Plant Community Regeneration in the Lost Pines at Bastrop – Emily Booth (2012 Ann Miller Gonzales Research Grant Recipient)

Emily Booth will discuss her research conducted in the Bastrop area after the fire which occurred on Sept. 4, 2011. This fire covered just over 34,000 acres, including almost all of the Bastrop State Park. Emily and her advisor, Dr. Norma Fowler (Dept Integrative Biology, Univ of Texas) discussed project ideas and then got in touch with David Riskind (TPWD Director of Natural Resources) and with Greg Creaey (TPWD Nat Res Region III Bastrop). She started her research in the Bastrop State Park in the summer of 2012 on the effects of fire severity, light availability and soil types on plant community regeneration. This research will be part of her PhD dissertation at the Univ of Texas.

*Emily Booth is originally from NY, received her undergraduate degree at Oberlin College in Ohio and received an MS from a joint program between Northwestern University and the Chicago Botanic Garden. She is currently working on her PhD in the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Texas, under her advisor, Dr. Norma Fowler. Her work at UT focuses on biotic responses to wildland fire.*

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IIC. Pollination – Valerie Bugh

The movement of pollen from stamen to stigma is a major issue for plants, and they cannot easily do it themselves. While bees are the first resource that comes to mind when pollination is mentioned, no ecosystem is simple; complexity demands multiple solutions to the issue. We will look at the various animals that interact with plants in this process, and discuss the expenditures, risks and compensations.

*Valerie Bugh is a local Austin naturalist specializing in the arthropods of the Austin area, with interests in taxonomy and photography. She runs the Fauna Project at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, leads insect discovery walks, teaches entomology courses, provides insect/spider identifications, gives talks to local organizations, and has published pocket guides to "Butterflies of Central Texas" and "Spiders of Texas." Website: <http://www.austinbug.com/index.html>*

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IID. Discovery Hill Outdoor Learning Center: A Public Demonstration Garden Using Restoration Principles – Judy Walther & Stan Wilson

National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Austin Independent School District (AISD) and Environmental Survey Consulting (ESC) collaboratively created a native plant area at AISD's Science and Health Resource Center in Austin, Texas, using habitat restoration principles while creating a demonstration area for teachers and students to replicate at their schools. Toyota USA Foundation, 3M, H-E-B and Westcove Discovery Center and NWF provided funding. Approximately 190 native species were used in the ¼ acre site, separated into habitat niches, including thicket, woodland, grassland, meadow, creek, and freshwater pond. Concepts included techniques to harvest rainwater, effective use of stormwater run-off, erosion control through vegetative barriers and naturalistic terracing, and companion planting. The garden, installed by ESC and volunteers, has hosted workshops on plant identification, maintenance, and habitat restoration. Well-used by teachers and students, it is AISD's first outdoor classroom and training site, and first of its kind installed in Texas by National Wildlife Federation.

*Judy Walther is President of Environmental Survey Consulting, a private company that has been designing and installing many restoration, landscaping, trail and wetland projects in the Central Texas region since 1984, including commercial, residential and governmental parkland projects. Judy learned the hill country ecosystems while she was Education Director of Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve from 1982 – 1986. Judy has designed several public gardens and authored a number of environmental education booklets. Her experience includes habitat restoration, exotic species control, wetland restoration, landscaping with native species, butterfly gardening and site management.*

*Stan Wilson has been a part of Environmental Survey Consulting's team since April 2001. He has focused mainly on wetland projects, including designing and supervising installation and maintenance of naturalistic plantings around an extensive number of wet ponds and creek stabilization bio-revetment projects. Stan has designed ADA nature trails in parkland projects. In addition to governmental projects, Stan has been on ESC's design team for residential sites that focus on naturalistic rockwork and native plant communities.*

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IIE. The Accidental Budgeteer – Cecil Carter (Chapter Development Workshop)

This workshop was conceived when I realized that for many boards I served on, the person having to compile the budget was not a trained financial person...it was an accident of fate they got the budgeting job. The mission of this workshop is to cover the rudiments of the budgeting process and how to translate the board's policies into fiscal terms. This is not a math workshop; it is about process and just plain old logic. This workshop will demystify preparation of the annual budget.

*Cecil Carter has been a consultant, engaged in a variety of capacities by non-profit clients for the past fifteen years. He works in South Central Oklahoma and across the nation for a firm in Chicago. He is also a grant writer and has won over \$10.0 million in grants for various non-profit organizations over the past 13 years. For over thirty years, he also served on the adjunct faculty of several colleges, including: Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City University and Southeastern University in Washington, D.C. He primarily taught economics and other business related subjects. He attended three colleges (Southern Methodist University, the University of Houston and the University of Oklahoma). He is a Certified Community Developer and is certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional. His avocation is Native Plants. He has served as President of his local chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas and also as a Vice President of Finance on the State Board. He has delivered numerous workshops chapter management related topics.*

◦ [Session III – Saturday, October 17 – 2:50 pm – 3:40 pm](#)

IIIA. How You can Help Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) Detect and Document Critical Populations of Plants in Texas – Cullen Hanks & Anna Strong

TPWD tracks information on almost 450 species of plants in Texas that are of conservation concern. This information is essential for evaluating the impact of development projects, ranking species, and as a guide for additional surveys. However, with only two botanists covering the entire state, not all species can be regularly surveyed, and therefore those



species are not well represented in our database. The Society can play a valuable role by helping document populations of tracked species. In this presentation, given jointly by Cullen Hanks and Anna Strong, we will review how members can learn about tracked species in their area and the best way to photo document a population.

*Cullen Hanks is a Texas Nature Tracker Biologist in the Wildlife Diversity Program at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. He grew up in Texas with an interest in natural history, especially birds. Cullen earned a BA in biology from Cornell University, and a MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. In his masters, he focused on issues relating to biodiversity conservation and conducted research on the economics of the wildlife trade. Cullen has extensive experience with the collection and management of data on rare and threatened species. He is very passionate about being a naturalist and the contribution of the naturalist community to conservation. Cullen lives in Austin, Texas with his wife.*

*Anna W. Strong has worked in the field of rare plant conservation for over ten years, starting with her master's degree in biology from Texas State University where she studied the reproductive biology of the endangered *Astrophytum asterias* (star cactus). Afterward, she worked for five years in St. Louis, MO as Conservation Projects Coordinator for the Center for Plant Conservation, a national organization that works to protect and conserve the United States' rare flora. More recently, Ms. Strong was hired as a botanist of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Non-game and Rare Species program to oversee the 400+ rare plants in the state of Texas.*

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#### IIIB. Forb and Woody Species Restoration in the Texas Hill Country: A Sequential Approach – David Mahler

Restoration of Texas Hill Country landscapes frequently starts with an attempt to replace dominant invasive grasses with palatable native grasses that have been reduced or eliminated through cattle grazing. However, successful reestablishment of palatable woody and perennial forb species, long ago degraded by goat browsing and unable to recover under high white-tailed deer populations, is a more difficult and long-range project.

Environmental Survey Consulting has developed a restoration process model for Spicewood Ranch and other projects over the past three decades. The model emphasizes restoration of depleted browse species through a combination of reduction of deer population while incrementally increasing available browse. We are developing a planting sequence of browse species based on their palatability and, therefore, their ability to survive when introduced over years in synchrony with gradual reduction of browse pressure. We have developed this sequence through numerous experiments and field trials using controlled burns, cedar removal, deer reduction, high fencing, wild seed harvesting, seeding, exotic species control, woody plant germination trials and deer exclosures. An evolving list of 150 forbs and woody species guides our site analyses of deer browse levels, restoration reintroduction attempts and landscape plantings.

*David Mahler is an ecologist for Environmental Survey Consulting, a company that specializes in site analysis, seed harvesting, habitat restoration, restoration landscaping, naturalistic rockwork, wetland and pond construction, and park and trail design and construction. He has been a pioneer in site-specific restoration in Central Texas since initiating restoration projects at Wild Basin Preserve in 1982 while he was their first Executive Director. David has long observed, researched and conducted experiments on sequential restoration of edible deer browse species in the Hill Country. He attended the first Native Plant Society meeting in Denton, instigated in part by Carroll Abbott, and has been a member since. He is a founding board member of the Society for Ecological Restoration International.*

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#### IIIC. Impacts of Urbanization on Interactions of Native Bees and Native Plants – Kim Ballare (2015 Ann Miller Gonzales Research Grant Recipient)

Kim's research has focused on how the growth of urbanization has affected the complex interactions of native bees with the local, native plants. Certain species of plants depend on certain species of native bees for pollination. But little is known about how urbanized landscapes that include non-native species will impact the plant-bee interactions or the survival of the bees or plants. Her research should produce interesting and important results.

*Kim is the recipient of the Ann Miller Gonzales Graduate Research Grant for 2015. She is a third year PhD student at the University of Texas, Austin, with a concentration in ecology, evolution, and behavior in the Department of Integrative Biology and her advisor is Dr. Shalene Jha. Kim has been active in native plant circles, speaking at various professional conferences and on radio programs, judging at regional science fairs, acting as a teaching assistant at UT, and mentoring undergraduates doing native plant research.*

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#### IIID. Forest Flora of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve – Bill Reiner

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve protects a unique forest ecosystem as the home of the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler. A crossroads of plant and animal species of the eastern and western United States as well as Mexico, the Preserve is also home to several Texas-endemic plants. Join us for a look at some of the special flora of this sanctuary of wild land within the Austin metropolitan area.

*Bill Reiner is a biologist with the City of Austin, part of a team monitoring and managing the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve for eight federally-listed endangered animal species, along with other rare plants and animals. He has been on the staff of the City's Wildland Conservation Division since 2006. In the six years before joining the City staff, Bill worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a biological technician at Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. His primary duty at the refuge was monitoring and control of the oak wilt fungus. When he was not immersed in this epidemic of the oaks, he mapped territories of Golden-cheeked Warblers and Black-capped Vireos, catalogued the plants and animals of the refuge, and led tours. He continues to lead tours at the refuge for the Balcones Songbird Festival and for SparrowFest, an annual workshop on sparrow identification. He has also taught an introductory grass identification class at the refuge. Originally from Ohio, Bill has been a Texan for more than 25 years. An avid birder since childhood, he is fascinated by all aspects of natural history and ecology, especially with how plants and animals fill niches in their environments and form communities. He explores these themes in a bi-monthly nature column that he writes for the Travis Audubon Society's newsletter, the Signal Smoke.*

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#### IIIE. Chapter Leaders Meeting – Dennis Perz

The Chapter Leaders Meeting has been held for many years at each Symposium. In the past, its primary purpose was to find volunteers to staff the nominating committee whose job was to identify nominees for state board positions. This responsibility was removed in the last year. The purpose of this meeting now is to give chapter leaders a chance to share successes and challenges that their chapter has experienced.

*Dennis Perz is currently serving on the state board as V.P. Chapter Liaison and is a member of the NLCP Steering Committee and past president of the Williamson County chapter. He has been a member of the Society since 1997 and was a recipient of the Benny Simpson Fellows Award in 2008. He lives with his wife, Marilyn, in Georgetown Texas. They own and operate the Georgetown Pecan Company.*

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#### • [Session IV – Saturday, October 17 – 3:55 pm – 4:45 pm](#)

#### IVA. Overview of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan – Valarie

The Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) was designed as a local solution to meet mitigation requirements for eight endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The BCCP created a preserve system that is currently over 30,000 acres in western Travis County. The BCCP was the first multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan in America. Beyond the endangered species it protects hundreds of native plants, some of which are rare. The BCCP also inspired other conservation projects for water quality and natural area parks in Central Texas. This presentation will focus on how the BCCP was created and its importance in protecting native habitat in a fast growing urban area.

*Valarie Bristol is professionally retired and is just completing nine years on the Board of Travis Audubon. From 2004 to 2008 she served as Director of External Affairs for The Nature Conservancy of Texas where she worked on campaigns to fund land conservation, represented TNC at the Legislature and served as TNC representative on many coalitions such as the Texas Land Trust Council. From 2000 to 2004 Valarie was Texas Director for the Trust for Public Land. Trained as an attorney at the University of Texas School of Law, Valarie was appointed to a vacant seat on the Travis County Commissioner's Court in 1999. Elected twice Valarie took up the cause of putting together a local solution to provide a method of complying with the Endangered Species Act and funding the land necessary for a preserve system. The Balcones Canyonland Conservation Plan was evolved over seven years with input and ideas from many citizens and professionals. Valarie was privileged to guide the BCCP through its final public approvals and shepherd a compliance system through the County which funds the preserve purchases.*

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#### IVB. Creating Abundance in Endangered Species Habitat at the Vireo Preserve – Jim O'Donnell

The land use history of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve has had a substantial impact on the health, viability, and diversity of our ecosystems. Borrowing techniques and designs from permaculture, forest gardening, natural farming, as well as traditional land management methods, we are restoring and creating habitat for the endangered black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler. We are also reintroducing numerous rare and unusual plant species. Creating and restoring endangered species habitat requires focusing on the whole supporting community. Starting from the ground up, we begin with rebuilding soils, seeding broad areas to increase biodiversity, and promoting the regeneration of woody plants. We then design plant guilds to create a sustainable framework with the goal of developing vibrant, abundant, and complex systems. What's really exciting about this work is that we can apply what we learn at the Vireo Preserve to other areas within and beyond the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.

*Jim O'Donnell has over thirty years' experience monitoring endangered species in the Austin, Texas area, including color banding, monitoring plant communities, and conducting surveys of black-capped vireos and golden-cheeked warblers. He retired after twenty-eight years of teaching science and environmental education in Dripping Springs in 2009. For the past six years, he has been designing and implementing habitat restoration on the City of Austin's Vireo Preserve, which is part of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Jim worked to get this 21.4-acre tract of land set aside in 1989 for what was at that time the largest concentration of black-capped vireos in Travis County. Jim was also a member of the Biological Advisory Team that provided the biological basis and support for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, a system of preserves established under a regional 10(a) permit designed to protect the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo, six endangered karst invertebrates, twenty-five rare karst invertebrates, and two rare plants. He is currently working as a seasonal biologist for the City of Austin's Wildland Conservation Division.*

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#### IVC. Pollinators and Natives: An Ancient Marriage – Randy Johnson

In this presentation, Randy discusses the co-evolution of pollinators and native plants and the vital role each plays in ecosystems. The critical importance of diversity is explained and exceptional genera are emphasized. He offers a common-sense template for plant selection and landscape design that is easy to understand and implement.

*Randy Johnson is from Mesquite, TX and he attended Texas A&M University where he earned a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. He is the past Director of Horticulture at Texas Discovery Gardens and currently serves as the Horticulture Manager at The Dallas Zoo. His personal business is Randy Johnson Organics, through this entity he offers consultations on organic horticulture, native plants, ecological restoration and pollinator gardens. Randy also propagates and sells native plants from seed he hand-collects from various ecotypes throughout north Texas. He is the current president of the Dallas Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, serves as a lifetime appointee on the Board of Directors of Peckercorn Garden and is a member of the Board of Directors at Lake Highlands community garden in Dallas.*

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#### IVD. Useful Plants of Ancient Texas – Leslie Bush (FULL)

The Texas plants we enjoy today have been used for food, medicine, and crafts for millennia by the native people of Texas. Written accounts by Spanish missionaries and European explorers, native oral traditions, and archeological investigations provide windows into the many fascinating uses of our Texas native plants. I'll discuss some of our more common economic plants – sumac, juniper, switchgrass, prickly pear – as well as some very important but lesser-known plants such as maygrass and camas.

*Leslie L. Bush is a paleoethnobotanist, an archaeologist who specializes in identifying bits of plants preserved on archaeological sites, usually in the form of charcoal. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University in 2001, and her dissertation was published by the University of Alabama Press. She has worked on sites in fifteen states including Maryland, Florida, Iowa, Indiana, and of course Texas. Leslie is currently involved with excavations by the Office of the Iowa State Archaeologist on the University of Iowa campus, Texas Archeological Society investigations near Columbus, and Texas State University's Ancient Southwest Texas Project near Comstock. She once found a prickly pear seed on a 600-year-old site near Indianapolis.*

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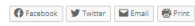
#### IVE. Just what is OUTREACH? – Cecil Carter (Chapter Development Workshop)

When the second person told me..."Hey, we are the best kept secret in Texas!" it jarred me. Surely all organizations want people to know more about them so they could advance their missions. I think of OUTREACH as a combination of public relations, "getting your name out", "working a room" and insuring you are proactive in publicizing the wonders of being a chapter of the Native Plant Society. Like in almost any activity, it's been done before. There is a simple process to it. In the short time this workshop takes, you will master this process. When put into practice what you've learned will gain a lot of recognition for your chapter.

*Cecil Carter has been a consultant, engaged in a variety of capacities by non-profit clients for the past fifteen years. He works in South Central Oklahoma and across the nation for a firm in Chicago. He is also a grant writer and has won over \$10.0 million in grants for various non-profit organizations over the past thirteen years. For over thirty years, he also served on the adjunct faculty of several colleges, including: Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City University and Southeastern University in Washington, D.C. He primarily taught economics and other business related subjects. He attended three colleges (Southern Methodist University, the University of Houston and the University of Oklahoma). He is a Certified Community Developer and is certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional. His avocation is Native Plants. He has served as President of his local chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas and also as a Vice President of the State Board. He has delivered numerous workshops chapter management related topics.*

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[Home](#)—[Field Trips \(overview\)](#)

## Field Trips (overview)

- Field trips are listed showing area general location – north, south, east, west, etc.
- Many field trips repeat on different days, as noted.
- Field trip descriptions listed on separate website pages.

To download a PDF copy of maps to all Field Trip locations, [click here](#).

### Thursday October 15, 2015 Field Trips

**NOTE:** Austin's traffic is notoriously heavy during evening rush hours. To avoid long traffic lines traveling from Bergstrom Hilton Hotel to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, we recommend that you come out to the Center early on Thursday afternoon and enjoy one of the field trips conducted prior to the reception at 5:00 pm. Or sign up instead for one of the two field trips being held in the southwest area of Austin prior to attending the reception at 5:00 pm.

- T1 sw:** Reicher Ranch/Balcones Canyonlands Preserve – 1:00 pm (FULL)
- T2 sw:** Shield Ranch – 1:00 pm (repeats Friday F15 & Sunday S16) (FULL)
- T3 sw:** Wildflower Center Gardens – 3:00 pm
- T4 sw:** Wildflower Center Arboretum/Research Trail – 3:00 pm (FULL)
- T5 sw:** Wildflower Center Facilities Tour – 4:00 pm

### Friday October 16, 2015 Field Trips

- F1 east:** Bastrop State Park – 1:30 pm (repeats Sunday S1)
- F2 east:** McKinney Roughs Nature Park – 1:30 pm
- F3 east:** Stengl "Lost Pines" Biological Field Station – 1:30 pm (repeats Sunday S2)
- F4 east:** Yegua Knobs Preserve – 1:30 pm (identical to F5 except for leader)
- F5 east:** Yegua Knobs Preserve – 1:30 pm (identical to F4 except for leader)
- F6 cent:** McKinney Falls State Park – 1:30 pm
- F7 cent:** Discovery Hill Outdoor Learning Center – 1:30 pm
- F8 cent:** Paul Waller: Dyeing with Texas Native Plants – 1:30 pm
- F9 north:** Berry Springs Park & Preserve/Georgetown – 1:30 pm (repeats Sunday S15)
- F10 nw:** Cedar Stump Ranch & Post Oak Creek/BCNWR – 1:30 pm
- F11 west:** Barton Creek Habitat Preserve/Nature Conservancy – 1:30 pm
- F12 west:** Kent Butler/Balcones Canyonlands Preserve – 1:30 pm
- F13 west:** Commons Ford City Park/City of Austin – 1:30 pm (repeats Sunday S10)
- F14a west:** Wild Basin Nature Preserve – 1:00 pm (repeats Sunday S8)
- F14b west:** Vireo Preserve/City of Austin – 3:00 pm (repeats Sunday S9)
- F15 sw:** Shield Ranch – 1:30 pm (repeats Thursday T2 & Sunday S16)
- F16 sw:** Spicewood Ranch – 1:30 pm (repeats Sunday S14)
- F17 sw:** Westcave Preserve – 2:00 pm

### Sunday October 18, 2015 Field Trips

- S1 east:** Bastrop State Park – 9:30 am (see F1)
- S2 east:** Stengl "Lost Pines" Biological Field Station – 9:30 am (see F3)
- S3 east:** Yegua Knobs Preserve – 9:30 am (see F4)
- S4 north:** Burleson Prairie – 10:00 am
- S5 north:** Simpson Prairie – 10:00 am
- S6 nw:** Doeskin Ranch (BCNWR) – 9:30 am
- S7 west:** Kent Butler (Balcones Canyonlands Preserve) – 9:30 am (see F12)
- S8 west:** Wild Basin Nature Preserve – 9:30 am (repeats Friday F14a)
- S9 west:** Vireo Preserve/City of Austin – 9:30 am (repeats Friday F14b)
- S10 west:** Commons Ford City Park/City of Austin – 9:30 am (repeats Friday F13)
- S11 west:** Barton Creek Habitat Preserve/Nature Conservancy – 9:30 am (repeats Friday F11) (FULL)
- S12 west:** Chaetura Canyon Sanctuary – 9:30 am
- S13 south:** Halifax Ranch – 9:00 am (FULL)
- S14 sw:** Spicewood Ranch – 9:30 am (repeats Friday F16)
- S15 north:** Berry Springs Park & Preserve/Georgetown – 9:30 am (repeats Friday F9)
- S16 west:** Shield Ranch – 9:30 am (repeats Thursday T2 & Friday F15)

### Self-Guided Field Trips

- SG1 east:** Bastrop State Park (guided tours Friday F1 & Sunday S1)
- SG2 east:** Buesher State Park
- SG3 east:** Colorado River Refuge
- SG4 east:** McKinney Roughs Nature Park (guided tour Friday F2)

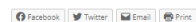
### Thursday Field Trip Descriptions

### Friday Field Trip Descriptions

### Sunday Field Trip Descriptions

### Self-Guided Field Trip Descriptions

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Home—Field Trips (overview)—Friday Field Trips

## Friday Field Trips

### Field Trip Descriptions Friday, October 16th

**PLEASE NOTE THAT TRIPS IN RED ARE ALREADY FULL**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Friday evening is open for attendees to eat at a restaurant of choice – [click here](#) to get a list of restaurants by location.

- **Friday field trip groups will meet on site at the hotel after lunch.**
- **Instructions for meet up will be announced during morning plenary sessions.**
- **Carpooling is encouraged.**
- **Friday evening meals are on your own – restaurant suggestions and maps will be included in your registration packets.**
- **Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy closed walking or hiking shoes.**
- **Bring: sunglasses, hat, bug spray, water, camera, sunscreen, cellphone, GPS.**

To download a PDF copy of Friday Field Trip maps, [click here](#).

#### **F1: Bastrop State Park (also on Sunday S1)**

Bastrop State Park is approximately 6,600 acres – about 30 miles southeast of Austin in Bastrop County. It is the site of the famous “Lost Pines,” an isolated timbered region of loblolly pine, oaks, hickory, walnut, cedar, shrubs, grassland and mixed flowering plants that create a diverse environment important to many species of wildlife. It is part of the ecological region known as the Post Oak Savannah.

Separated from the East Texas Pineywoods by nearly 100 miles, pollen records indicate the pines have persisted in this area for over 18,000 years. Sandy and gravelly soils with a sub-surface layer of water preserving clay help to create an environment where loblolly pines can flourish. Over time the climate became drier but the local sandy aquifer-laced soils provided conditions for the trees to thrive. The pines have become genetically unique, having adapted to 30 percent less rainfall than loblollies from East Texas and adjacent states. This pine-oak woodland covers approximately 70 square miles and is part of the most westerly stand of loblolly pines in the state.

In September 2011, Bastrop State Park and the surrounding pine forest were stricken by wildfire that affected 96 percent of the park. The 1930s era sandstone cabins and facilities constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps were saved. The park is recovering from the fire; most trails, campsites and facilities have reopened to the public.

This field trip will be conducted in a section of the park not open for public access. A spring 2014 plant survey by Bill Carr recorded about 140 species in this section.

**Leaders:** Minnette Marr, Wildflower Center Plant Conservationist; Judy Turner, and others TBD

**Time:** 1:30 – 4:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate, “off the trail” hike about 2 – 3 miles round trip.

**Max # of Attendees:** 20

**On-site Fee:** \$5 per adult; \$2.50 if over 65 with Texas Parklands Passport; free with Texas State Parks Pass

**Distance from Hotel:** 27.6 miles from hotel, ~ 35 minutes

**Address:** 100 Park Road 1A, Bastrop 78602

**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/bastrop>

**Transport Mode:** Attendees will meet at the Bastrop State Park Refectory for a brief introduction to the eco-communities of the selected area. From there we will car-pool to the locked entrance gate (about 7 miles), park the cars, and then hike into the area.

#### **F2: McKinney Roughs Nature Park**

McKinney Roughs Nature Park is a community resource made available by Lower Colorado River Authority. The park is comprised of 1,100 acres along the Texas Colorado River in Bastrop County with 18 miles of hiking trails.

Four ecosystems are found in the park – Post Oak Savannah, Backland Prairie, Piney Woods and Riparian. Soil structures reflect each ecosystem, the most interesting being in the Piney Woods where porous sand tops a clay layer thus keeping adequate water available for Loblolly Pine roots. A hike on the trail down to the river offers a walk through classic riparian habitat with mature trees and a thick understory lush with many species of vines. The Post Oak Savannah can be observed on the road into headquarters and Backland Prairie incursions can be identified by looking down at the color of the soil – or at your heavy shoes clogged with black sticky mud if there has been a recent rain!

**Leaders:** Louise Ridlon, Marianna Hobbs, Liz Pullman

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Level of difficulty:** Easy to Moderate

**Max # of Attendees:** 20

**Distance from Hotel:** 15 miles; about 17 minutes

**Address:** 1884 Hwy 71 West, Cedar Creek 78612

**Website:** <http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed-parks/Pages/mckinney-roughs-nature-park.aspx>

#### **F3: Stengl “Lost Pines” Biological Field Station (also on Sunday S2)**

The Stengl “Lost Pines” Biological Station is a satellite facility of Brackenridge Field Laboratory (BFL), administered by the University of Texas, Austin, School of Biological Sciences. This 208 acre research and teaching facility is like having a piece of the “Piney Woods” of east Texas less than 50 miles from Austin. The site is characterized as Post Oak Savannah, but has elements of both the Blackland Prairie and the East Texas Piney Woods that contribute to increased biodiversity.

The property has meadows and open areas that fade into a pine forest with mixed hardwoods. JD Creek bisects the site and provides topographic relief exposing the area's unique soil structures that allow for the unusual flora. The fast draining sandy soil has a clay pan beneath it that holds water during dryer times. This creates a setting that allows cacti to grow right next to fungi and agaves to grow in the shade of pine trees. Such diversity makes Stengl Biological Field Station a valuable study site to students and researchers in biology, ecology, and evolution.

**Leader:** Steven Gibson, Resident Manager of Stengl “Lost Pines” Biological Field Station

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate, with up hill/down hill at some steep creek side slopes

**Max # of Attendees:** 20

**Distance from Hotel:** 37.2 miles; about 45 minutes

**Address:** 405 Old Antioch Road, Smithville 78957

**Website:** <https://www.bfl.utexas.edu/stengl/> and plant species inventory:  
<https://www.bfl.utexas.edu/stengl/research/species-list/plants>

#### **F4 & F5: Yegua Knobs Preserve (also on Sunday S3)**

The Yegua (Yeh-wah) Knobs Preserve is a 302 acre expanse of hills, woods, pastures, and wetlands. It is owned by the Pines and Prairies Land Trust and managed through a partnership with US Fish and Wildlife and the Texas Forest Service. The goals of the management plan include restoring and enhancing native pine-oak savannahs, improving understory plant diversity, and enhancing small ecological conditions benefiting wildlife.



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understory plant diversity, and enhancing overall ecological conditions benefiting various species including the endangered Houston Toad. The plan includes prescribed burns, mechanical mulching of understory brush, and hand removal of invasive plants in sensitive wetland areas.

The wetland includes a beaver pond and is fed by springs that have never gone dry. Bog species include water penny, bladderworts, seedboxes, water horehound, and orchids (ladies' tresses).

**Leader: F4:** Chris Best, State Botanist, US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Leader: F5:** Doug Phillips, US Fish & Wildlife Service

**Time (both):** 1:30 – 4:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Must be able to hike 2 miles in sandy and muddy conditions.

**Max # of Attendees:** 20

**Distance from Hotel:** 46 miles; about 65 minutes

**Address:** Yegua Knobbs Pk Road 3051, Lexington 78947

**Website:** <http://www.pplb.org/preserves/>

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#### **F6: McKinney Falls State Park**

**(THIS TRIP IS FULL)**

McKinney Falls is a 725-acre state park with waterfalls, Indian rock shelters, and pioneer ruins, located only a few miles from the symposium hotel. We will hike the 2.8 mile paved Onion Creek loop trail, concentrating on the area along the lush creek. The plant life is typical of a woodland riparian area in a region where Blackland prairie meets the Edwards Plateau. There are stunning bald cypresses along the creek. Well represented in the park are: Ashe juniper, cedar elm, elbow bush, Mexican buckeye, rough-leaf dogwood, tasajillo, twist-leaf yucca, and two species of milkvine. Occasional finds include: rusty blackhaw viburnum, American beautyberry, devil's shoestring, rock rose, white avens, and star cucumber.

Wherever possible, Matt will discuss ethno-botanical information on the plants that figure richly in the state's natural history.

**Leader:** Matt Turner, author, *Remarkable Plants of Texas: Uncommon Accounts of our Common Natives*

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm; participants may want to linger longer on their own to check out the park's other features.

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy to moderate. The Onion Creek Trail is an easy 2.8 miles; 139 feet in elevation change; largely flat with only one short, steep slope; roughly paved.

**Max # of Attendees:** 20

**Distance from Hotel:** 7.5 miles; about 13 minutes

**Fee:** Donations appreciated!

**Address:** 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy, Austin 78744

**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/mckinney-falls>

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#### **F7: Discovery Hill Outdoor Learning Center**

National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Austin Independent School District (AISD) and Environmental Survey Consulting (ESC) collaboratively created a native plant area at AISD's Science and Health Resource Center in Austin, Texas, using habitat restoration principles while creating a demonstration area for teachers and students to replicate at their schools. Toyota USA Foundation, 3M, H-E-B and Westcave Discovery Center, and NWF provided funding.

Conceptual design included techniques to harvest rainwater, effective use of storm water run-off, erosion control through vegetative barriers and naturalistic terracing, and companion planting. Approximately 150 native species were used in the ¼ acre site, separated into habitat niches, including thicket, woodland, grassland, meadow, creek, and freshwater pond.

The garden has hosted workshops on plant identification, maintenance, and habitat restoration. Well-used by teachers and students, it is AISD's first outdoor classroom and training site, and first of its kind installed in Texas by National Wildlife Federation.

**Leaders:** Judy Walther, President, Environmental Survey Consulting and Stan Wilson

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy, wheel chair accessible

**Max # of Attendees:** 30 (2 groups of 15)

**Distance from Hotel:** 9.8 miles; about 19 minutes

**Address:** 305 North Bluff Dr., Austin 78745

**Website:** <https://www.austinsisd.org/academics/science/science-health-resource-center>

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#### **F8: Dyeing with Texas Native Plants: If You're Not Dying to Hike, Consider a Hike to Dye**

Do you knit, crochet, weave, felt, or spin yarns (fiber, not stories)? Looking for a different kind of native plant field trip? Prefer sitting in the shade of a bald cypress to hiking on a hot dusty trail? Then consider exploring natural dyes extracted from local native plants and their application to protein fiber yarns.

Bring a folding chair for this sedentary "field trip" in the central Austin garden of fiber artist Paul Waller and nature writer Matt Turner. Sit in the shade, visit their small urban landscape, and experience the magic of dyeing with locally harvested black walnut, goldenrod, and cochineal. Tour Paul's compact studio space, and see some examples of his work along with natural dye weavings by Diné (Navajo) weaver Michele Laughing-Reeves. There will be some opportunity to volunteer for audience participation on site. If you are a fiber arts enthusiast and want to have some of your yarn dyed at the field trip, call Paul to discuss the possibility. (Phone 512-354-7285 **at least three weeks prior to the symposium** with first come, first served, limited capacity.)

**Leader:** Paul Waller, Austin Chapter member and local fiber artist

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Sedentary

**Max # of Attendees:** 16

**Distance from Hotel:** 12 miles

**Address:** 804 Josephine, Austin 78704 (private home)

**Website:** [www.woolwright.com](http://www.woolwright.com)

**Transport Mode:** Carpooling encouraged. Must park along the street.

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#### **F9: Berry Springs Park & Preserve, Georgetown (also on Sunday 5/5)**

Join Park Manager Susan Blackledge, Sue Wiseman & Betsy Ross (Williamson County Chapter) and Marshall C. Johnston (Friday only) as you explore an early Texas homestead property with family cemetery, pecan orchard in creek bottom, mill pond with dock, shaded trails through primitive camping area, and a sunny pasture meadow. A thorough Williamson County plant survey of the park will be provided. Betsy Ross will share her experiences converting the pasture to native prairie using her legendary compost-tea.

Meet us at the Tonkava Pavilion for an orientation before walking the improved trails in a large circle though the meadow, the shaded trails in the primitive camping area, the boardwalk below the mill pond overflow, and back through the pecan orchard. Expect to see: Pigeon-berry, Indian Mallow, Scarlet Spiderling, Purple Leatherflower and Carolina Snailseed Vines, Gay-Feather, Eupatorium serotinum, Prairie agalinis, Eryngo, Creek Plum, and various native grasses in the meadow. This is also the time of the year to view Monarchs in the Frostweed.

**Leaders:** Susan Blackledge; Sue Wiseman & members of Williamson County Chapter

**Time Friday:** 1:30 – 4:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy; wheelchair accessible with crushed granite trails

**Max # of Attendees:** 30 (will split into two groups)

**Distance from Hotel:** 41 miles

**Address:** 1801 County Road 152, Georgetown 78626 (One mile east of Toll Road 130 and IH-35 North intersection)

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**F10: Cedar Stump Ranch and Post Oak Creek, BCNWR, Combined Trip (THIS TRIP IS FULL)**

This is a combination field trip to view **two sites** of the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is centered along the Post Oak Ridge area and located mainly in Williamson and Burnet counties. The US Fish & Wildlife Service established the Refuge in 1991 to conserve biodiversity of the Edwards Plateau and to protect the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo.

In addition to this Refuge, there is also the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP), located in Travis County, with the same purpose of protecting biodiversity and endangered species. It was established in 1996 under a federal permit held by the City of Austin and Travis County, with other participants (LCRA, TNC, TAS, & private land owners). These two preserves, the BCNWR and the BCP, are often confused, but they are separate entities.

1. **Cedar Stump Ranch**, a private property owned by Joan Mukherjee, 110 acres, straddles spring-fed Cow Creek and Cow Creek Valley. The layers of exposed geology include layers of Cow Creek Limestone, Hensel Sand, and Glen Rose Limestone as well as bottomland and gravel bars. The diverse soils support over 500 species of plants, including several endemics. Many of the latter are found in canyons and near springs. The remaining landscape is a mix of grasslands and wooded areas containing many species of trees but dominated by live oak and Ashe Juniper. Special plants include Texabama Croton, Gravel Bar Brickellbush, Scarlet Leatherflower, Chatterbox Orchids, Lace Cactus, and Canyon Muhly.

**Leaders:** Joan Mukherjee and Dr. Chuck Sexton

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult

**Max # of Attendees:** 15

**Distance from Hotel:** 44 miles; about 52 minutes in non-rush hour times

**Address:** 25319 FM 1431, Marble Falls 78654

**Website:**

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Balcones\\_Canyonlands/visitor\\_activities/wildlife\\_watching\\_and\\_nature\\_trails.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Balcones_Canyonlands/visitor_activities/wildlife_watching_and_nature_trails.html)

2. **Post Oak Creek:** The backcountry of the Post Oak Creek watershed on the Refuge is a wonderland of rugged habitats and diverse plant communities. This hike will introduce visitors to a sample of the well-documented flora of over 700 plant species and offer an overview of how the natural landscape and past human activity have shaped that diversity. The hike will highlight several Texas Hill Country endemic species. See website for plant listings.

**Leader:** Dr. Chuck Sexton, retired Chief Refuge Biologist from 1995 to 2014

**Time:** 3:00 – 5:00 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous

**Max # of Attendees:** 15

**Distance from Hotel:** 44 miles; about 52 minutes in non-rush hour times

**Address:** 24518 FM 1431, Box 1, Marble Falls 78654

**Website:**

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Balcones\\_Canyonlands/wildlife\\_and\\_habitat/species\\_list.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Balcones_Canyonlands/wildlife_and_habitat/species_list.html)

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**F11: Barton Creek Habitat Preserve, The Nature Conservancy (also on Sunday Set) (THIS TRIP IS FULL)**

The Barton Creek Habitat Preserve (4,084 acres) nestled along four miles of Barton Creek in southwest Travis County in Austin, is a scenic and pristine landscape that protects the habitat of two species of endangered songbirds in partnership with Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. With the assistance of neighboring landowners, it also preserves the quality of water in the Barton Creek watershed. The upland hills are primarily populated with oaks and little bluestem blending into mature oak/Ashe Juniper woodlands. Interspersed with the upland woodlands are grassland areas, primarily little bluestem and Indiangrass.

Along the crest and sloping down the canyon walls to the creek bottom, the oaks and junipers transition into sycamore, pecan, black willow, sugarberry, Texas oaks, Texas ash, and elm. The creek sustains bald-cypress, switch grass, common water-willow and water-hyssop. Populations of Gravelbar Brickellbush and Heller's False-Gromwell (Heller's marbleseed) are also found in the creek bed.

**Leader:** Jason Singhurst, Texas Parks and Wildlife Botanist

**Time Friday:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # of Attendees:** 15

**Distance from Hotel:** 22 miles; 30 minutes in non-rush hour traffic

**Address:** 11617 FM 2244, Austin 78798

**Note:** Waiver & group report required

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**F12: Kent Butler, Austin Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (also on Sunday Set)**

This roughly 1,000 acre tract is best known for its prime habitat for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and is mostly comprised of mature oak/juniper woodland. However, there are several other rare and endangered species.

The hike will focus on examining not only the vegetation critical for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler but also for the endangered black-capped vireo, which relies on open shrub lands. We will visit a spring that is home to Austin's most recently listed species, the threatened Jollyville Plateau salamander.

Site vegetation varies: open shrub land dominated by evergreen sumac, shin oak, live oak, and a healthy stand of creek plum; closed canopy oak/juniper woodlands, dominated by Ashe Juniper, live oak, red oak, Texas ash and cedar elm; riparian vegetation such as large mature Arizona walnut, escarpment black cherry, spicebush, and a beautiful stand of maidenhair and shield fern. The rare plants of note are Canyon mock-orange, Texas indigo-bush, and Heller's marbleseed.

**Leaders:** Mark Sanders and John Chenoweth

**Time Friday:** 1:30 – 4:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous

**Max # of Attendees:** 15

**Distance from Hotel:** 22 miles

**Address:** 8426 1/2 Arterial S, Austin 78750

**Website:** [www.austintexas.gov/departments/balcones-canyonlands-preserves-bcp](http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/balcones-canyonlands-preserves-bcp)

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**F13: Commons Ford City Park, Austin (also on Sunday Set)**

Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park is an Austin city park located just west of central Austin. The park consists of approximately 215 acres of diverse habitat including Lake Austin frontage and nesting grounds for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler. A "prairie" of approximately 40 acres encompasses the central portion of the park. The prairie, dormant for nearly 30 years, was comprised primarily of King Ranch Bluestem, Bermuda and Johnsongrass (the "invasives") along with scattered, small mesquite trees. It was a stark contrast to the otherwise vibrant and diverse habitat of the park.

With thanks to Ed Fair, the Commons Fords Prairie Restoration Organization (CFPRO) was formed to return the prairie to its former habitat of native grasses and flowers.

Through a coalition of partner agencies, CFPRO was able to find the funds and volunteers to study the land, plan its restoration and follow through with removing the invasives and planting native seeds. What was once an area of exotic non-native grasses with little value

to local wildlife has now become a vibrant field of wildflowers and native grasses attracting dozens of bird species and other wildlife. Native plants expected on this field trip include: Little bluestem, Yellow Indiangrass, Sideoats grama, Common sunflower, Maximilian sunflower, Gayfeather, Silver-leaf nightshade, Prairie verbena, Eryngo, Indian mallow. With the restored prairie, pecan groves, riparian zone, canyons and edges, Commons Ford has extremely varied habitats.

**Leader, Friday:** Dianne Sherril  
**Time Friday:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm  
**Level of Difficulty:** Easy  
**Max # of Attendees:** 20  
**Distance from Hotel:** 20 miles; about 40 minutes in non-rush hour traffic  
**Address:** 614 N. Commons Ford Rd. Austin 78733  
**Websites:** [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org); [commonsfordpro.blogspot.com](http://commonsfordpro.blogspot.com)

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**F14a: Wild Basin Nature Preserve (Friday prior to F14b Vireo Preserve hike, also on Sunday S8)**

Wild Basin Nature Preserve is at the crossroads of several prominent ecosystems in central Texas: Blackland Prairies to the east, Edwards Plateau to the west, and Cross Timbers-Prairies to the north. This area, known as the "Hill Country," is a transition zone characterized by some of the greatest plant and animal biodiversity found in all of Texas. The topography is known as a "karst" landscape, referring to the shaping of the area by water. Caves, sinkholes, and springs exist throughout as illustrated by our walk to the waterfall. Framed by a dense canopy of Ashe Juniper, Live Oak, Spanish Oak, and Cedar Elm, Wild Basin is also home to eight federally listed species, including 2 songbirds and 6 cave invertebrates. Twenty-seven species, including many plants, are also considered at risk. Some of us consider Wild Basin to be part of our ecological address, or, "what lives here besides us." Come join Paul for a walk through the neighborhood!

**Leader:** Paul Montgomery  
**Time Friday:** 1:00 – 2:45 pm, to be followed by F14b at Vireo Preserve, just north of Wild Basin  
**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate 1 mile round trip hike down to waterfall and back; gentle to moderate slopes on a natural pace  
**Max # of Attendees:** 15  
**Distance from Hotel:** 16 miles  
**Address:** 805 N Capitol of Texas Hwy, Austin 78746  
**Website:** <https://parks.traviscountytexas.gov/find-a-park/wild-basin>

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**F14b: Vireo Preserve (Friday following F14a Wild Basin hike, also on Sunday S9)**

The Vireo Preserve habitat consists of creek and canyons that are Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat, and upland areas that are being restored as Black-capped Vireo habitat. Starting from the ground up, the restoration process began with rebuilding soils, seeding broad areas to increase biodiversity, and promoting the regeneration of woody plants. Plant guilds were designed to create a sustainable framework with the goal of developing vibrant, abundant, and complex systems. And numerous rare and unusual native plants have been introduced, including Canyon Mock-Orange, Sycamore-Leaf Snowbell, Big Red Sage, and Spicebush. 214 acres

**Leader:** Jim O'Donnell  
**Time Friday:** 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate 1 mile hike  
**Max # of Attendees:** 15  
**Distance from Hotel:** 16 miles  
**Address:** 1107 North Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin TX 78749;  
**Physical Location:** Intersection of Loop 360 and Pascal Lane, on the east side of Loop 360, just north of Wild Basin  
**Website:** <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/balcones-canyonlands-preserve-bcp>; <http://www.austinparks.org/our-parks.html>

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**F15: Shield Ranch (also on Thursday T2 and Sunday S16)**

The 6,800 acre Shield Ranch, located in the Barton Creek watershed southwest of Austin, has been in continuous operation by the Shield-Ayres family since its purchase in 1938 by Fred and Vera Shield of San Antonio. The Shield Ranch is well known as a working cattle ranch dedicated to environmental stewardship and public outreach and education. Rotational grazing and active wildlife and habitat management have resulted in a diverse community of plants and animals. Shield Ranch is a refuge for two endangered species of birds, the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo. The conservation values of the ranch are protected by conservation easements held by The Nature Conservancy and the City of Austin.

**Leaders:** Bob Ayres, third generation owner and Managing Partner of Shield Ranch; Terri Siegenthaler, Shield Ranch Steward since 2000; Kirsti Harms, President of the Native Prairies Association of Texas and Austin Chapter member.  
**Time Thursday:** 1:00 – 4:00 pm  
**Time Friday:** 1:30 – 4:30 pm  
**Time Sunday:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Max # of Attendees:** 15  
**Distance from Hotel:** 26 miles  
**Distance to Wildflower Center:** 16.5 miles  
**Address:** 16037 Hamilton Pool Rd. Austin 78738  
**Transport Mode:** Plenty of parking is available. However, anyone with an open-bed pick-up or high-clearance SUV is encouraged to drive, because we'll re-pack the group into as few vehicles as possible for travel on some unpaved (but good) ranch roads.

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**F16: Spicewood Ranch (also on Sunday S14)**  
**(THIS TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELLED)**

The 1,200 acre Spicewood Ranch is approximately 30 miles west of Austin between Spicewood, Texas and the Colorado River. Environmental Survey Consulting has been conducting restoration on the ranch since 1988 for owner Chris Harte. We will explore areas of management success which include restoration in prairies, live oak woodlands, live oak savannas, ashe juniper breaks; pecan and elm riparian woodland along upper Alligator Creek; a very open rocky riparian community where lower Alligator Creek cuts through the Cow Creek limestone; and post oak savannas in the patches of deeper gravel alluvial terrace soils. Our restoration theories and practices will be discussed.

**Leader:** David Mahler 512-689-3278  
**Time Friday:** 1:30 – 4:30 pm  
**Level of Difficulty:** Easy  
**Max # of Attendees:** 25  
**Distance from Hotel:** 44 miles; about 60 minutes  
**Address:** 637 County Road 411, Spicewood 78669  
**Website:** [www.envirosurvey.com](http://www.envirosurvey.com)

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**F17: Westcave Preserve**

Westcave Preserve is a hidden gem – one of the most interesting canyon grottos in the area – and it should not be missed. Visitors are guided from an arid savannah through a limestone crevice into a sheltered canyon of lush plant life. At the head of the canyon stands the grotto, with a stunning 40-foot waterfall replenishing the emerald pool below.

Back in the 1960's Westcave Preserve was a popular hang out for young people. When the original 25 acres were purchased in the early 1970s, over 100 large bags of trash were removed and restoration of the canyon and grotto began. Over the years plant and animal species diversity has climbed as the preserve recovered and grew by another 50 acres. The number of bird species has increased to 100. Golden-cheeked Warblers take advantage of



minutes to this species has increased to 150 – 200 feet. The area is a natural habitat of the habitat and Painted Buntings flit about the porch of the Environmental Learning Center. The 469 plant species vary tremendously: from the Live Oak/Ashe Juniper and Little Bluestem savannah at the top of the canyon, to riparian species at the bottom – huge Bald Cypress and Chinkapin Oaks, unusual Spice Bush, and ferns.

**Leader:** Amber Ahrens Gosselin, Land Manager (She also grew up at the preserve.)  
**Time:** 2:00 – 3:30 pm Please arrive at least 15 minutes early.  
**Level of Difficulty:** Difficult 1 mile round trip; hike down to grotto and return – 125 steps built into the natural landscape. There is no alternative route.  
**Max # of Attendees:** 20  
**Distance from Hotel:** 36 miles; about 50 minutes  
**On-site Fee:** \$10/person  
**Address:** 24814 Hamilton Pool Rd, Round Mountain 78663  
**Website:** [www.westcave.org](http://www.westcave.org)

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[Thursday Field Trip Descriptions](#)  
[Sunday Field Trip Descriptions](#)

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## Sunday Field Trips

### Field Trip Descriptions

**Sunday, October 18, 2015**

**(PLEASE NOTE THAT TRIPS IN RED ARE ALREADY FULL)**

- **Sunday Field trips are attended on your way home.**
- **Meet at field trip sites a few minutes before start time**
- **Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy closed walking or hiking shoes.**
- **Bring: sunglasses, hat, bug spray, water, camera, sunscreen, cellphone, GPS.**

To download a PDF copy of Sunday Field Trip maps, [click here](#).

#### **S1: Bastrop State Park (also on Friday F1)**

Bastrop State Park is approximately 6,600 acres – about 30 miles southeast of Austin in Bastrop County. It is the site of the famous “Lost Pines,” an isolated timbered region of loblolly pine, oaks, hickory, walnut, cedar, shrubs, grassland and mixed flowering plants that create a diverse environment important to many species of wildlife. It is part of the ecological region known as the Post Oak Savannah.

Separated from the East Texas Pineywoods by nearly 100 miles, pollen records indicate the pines have persisted in this area for over 18,000 years. Sandy and gravelly soils with a sub-surface layer of water preserving clay help to create an environment where loblolly pines can flourish. Over time the climate became drier but the local sandy aquifer-laced soils provided conditions for the trees to thrive. The pines have become genetically unique, having adapted to 30 percent less rainfall than loblollies from East Texas and adjacent states. This pine-oak woodland covers approximately 70 square miles and is part of the most westerly stand of loblolly pines in the state.

In September 2011, Bastrop State Park and the surrounding pine forest were stricken by wildfire that affected 96 percent of the park. The 1930s era sandstone cabins and facilities constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps were saved. The park is recovering from the fire; most trails, campsites and facilities have reopened to the public.

This field trip will be conducted in a section of the park not open for public access. A spring 2014 plant survey by Bill Carr recorded about 140 species in this section.

**Leaders:** Minnette Marr, Wildflower Center Plant Conservationist; Judy Turner, and others TBD

**Time:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate, “off the trail” hike about 2 – 3 miles round trip.

**Max # of Attendees:** 20

**On-site Fee:** \$5 per adult; \$2.50 if over 65 with Texas Parklands Passport; free with Texas State Parks Pass

**Distance from Hotel:** 27.6 miles from hotel, ~ 35 minutes

**Address:** 100 Park Road 1A, Bastrop 78602

**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/bastrop>

**Transport Mode:** Attendees will meet at the Bastrop State Park Refectory for a brief introduction to the eco-communities of the selected area. From there we will car-pool to the locked entrance gate (about 7 miles), park the cars, and then hike into the area.

#### **S2: Stengl “Lost Pines” Biological Field Station (also on Friday F3)**

The Stengl “Lost Pines” Biological Station is a satellite facility of Brackenridge Field Laboratory (BFL), administered by the University of Texas, Austin, School of Biological Sciences. This 208 acre research and teaching facility is like having a piece of the “Piney Woods” of east Texas less than 50 miles from Austin. The site is characterized as Post Oak Savannah, but has elements of both the Blackland Prairie and the East Texas Piney Woods that contribute to increased biodiversity.

The property has meadows and open areas that fade into a pine forest with mixed hardwoods. JD Creek bisects the site and provides topographic relief exposing the area’s unique soil structures that allow for the unusual flora. The fast draining sandy soil has a clay pan beneath it that holds water during dryer times. This creates a setting that allows cacti to grow right next to fungi and agaves to grow in the shade of pine trees. Such diversity makes Stengl Biological Field Station a valuable study site to students and researchers in biology, ecology, and evolution.

**Leader:** Steven Gibson, Resident Manager of Stengl “Lost Pines” Biological Field Station

**Time:** 9:30 – 11:30 am

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate, with up hill/down hill at some steep creek side slopes

**Max # of Attendees:** 20

**Distance from Hotel:** 37.2 miles; about 45 minutes

**Address:** 405 Old Antioch Road, Smithville 78957

**Website:** <https://www.bfl.utexas.edu/stengl> and plant species inventory:

<https://www.bfl.utexas.edu/stengl/research/species-list/plants>

#### **S3: Yegua Knobs Preserve (also on Friday F4)**

The Yegua (Yeh-wah) Knobs Preserve is a 302 acre expanse of hills, woods, pastures, and wetlands. It is owned by the Pines and Prairies Land Trust and managed through a partnership with US Fish and Wildlife and the Texas Forest Service. The goals of the management plan include restoring and enhancing native pine-oak savannahs, improving understory plant diversity, and enhancing overall ecological conditions benefiting wildlife species including the endangered Houston Toad. The plan includes prescribed burns, mechanical mulching of understory brush, and hand removal of invasive plants in sensitive wetland areas.

The wetland includes a beaver pond and is fed by springs that have never gone dry. Bog species include water penny, bladderworts, seedboxes, water horehound, and orchids (ladies’ tresses).

**Leader:** Brendan Witt, Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife Service

**Time:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Must be able to hike 2 miles in sandy and muddy conditions.

**Max # of Attendees:** 20

**Distance from Hotel:** 46 miles; about 65 minutes

**Address:** Yegua Knobs Pvt Road 3051, Lexington 78947

**Website:** <http://www.pplt.org/preserves/>

#### **S4: Burleson Prairie**

Mickey Burleson’s prairie includes over a hundred acres of restored and remnant Blackland Prairie, part of Texas’ endangered tallgrass prairies. Mickey and her late husband Bob restored this tallgrass prairie over decades (even winning the Lone Star Land Stewards award for their work) and have written a restoration guide available on the Native Prairies Association of Texas web site. Local ecotype seed was collected by the Burlesons from native prairie hay meadows in the area, many of which no longer exist. The native grasses and fall flowers should be terrific this year after the spring rains.

**Leader:** Mickey Burleson

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Medium

**Max # of Attendees:** 20



Symposium 2015 | Austin  
Hilton Austin Airport  
9515 Hotel Drive  
Austin, Texas

- Accommodations
- Registration
- Symposium T-Shirt
- Thursday Night Reception
- Plenary Speakers & Presentations
- Break-out Speakers & Presentations
- Field Trips (overview)
- Thursday Field Trips
- Friday Field Trips
- Sunday Field Trips
- Self Guided Field Trips
- Schedule
- Silent Auction & Quilt Raffle
- Photography Contest
- Exhibitors & Vendors
- Sponsorship
- Our Sponsors
- Contact

Distance: 89 miles

Address: 5101 Berger Rd, Temple, TX 76701 (31.144379, -97.261038)

Website: <http://texasprairie.org/index.php/gallery/category/C46/>

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#### S5: Simpson Prairie

Simpson Prairie is a terrific 75 acre tallgrass prairie near Crawford with diverse Little Bluestem/Big Bluestem/Indiangrass plant communities. The native grasses and fall flowers should be fantastic this year after the spring rains. Protected by Mike and Marliis Williams via a conservation easement with Native Prairies Association of Texas.

**Leaders:** Jason and Lisa Spangler; or Mike Williams

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate

**Max # of Attendees:** 20

**Distance from Hotel:** 112 miles

**Address:** High Prairie Rd, Valley Mills, TX (31.590364, -97.472887)

**Website:** [http://texasprairie.org/index.php/npat\\_prairies/location/simpson\\_prairie/](http://texasprairie.org/index.php/npat_prairies/location/simpson_prairie/)

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#### S6: Doeskin Ranch, BCNWR

(THIS TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELLED)

The Doeskin Ranch Unit has more than five miles of foot trails open year-round from sunrise to sunset. The ½ mile Pond and Prairie Trail leads through prairie and woodland forest. Another short walk, the half mile Creek Trail, follows a beautiful, clear creek and provides comfortable shade in an old oak forest. Rimrock Trail is a vigorous 9.2 mile hike leading to the top of the plateau where one can find spectacular panoramic views of the Texas Hill Country. The Indiangrass Trail offers a mile and a half of solitude in prairie and forest. Doeskin Ranch was designated as a National Recreation Trail in June 2005.

**Leader:** Dr. Chuck Sexton

**Time:** 9:30 – 11:30 am

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Max # of Attendees:** 25

**Distance from Hotel:** 46 miles; about 60 minutes in non-rush hour traffic

**Address of Headquarters:** BCNWR HQ, 24518 FM 1431, Marble Falls 78654

**Physical Location:** On County Road 1174, north of intersection with County Road 328 (Cow Creek Road)

**Website:**

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Balcones\\_Canyonlands/visitor\\_activities/wildlife\\_watching\\_and\\_nature\\_trails.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Balcones_Canyonlands/visitor_activities/wildlife_watching_and_nature_trails.html)

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#### S7: Kent Butler, Austin Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (also on Friday F12)

This roughly 1,000 acre tract is best known for its prime habitat for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and is mostly comprised of mature oak/juniper woodland. However, there are several other rare and endangered species.

The hike will focus on examining not only the vegetation critical for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler but also for the endangered black-capped vireo, which relies on open shrub lands. We will visit a spring that is home to Austin's most recently listed species, the threatened Jollyville Plateau salamander.

Site vegetation varies: open shrub land dominated by evergreen sumac, shin oak, live oak, and a healthy stand of creek plum; closed canopy oak/juniper woodlands, dominated by ashe juniper, live oak, red oak, Texas ash and cedar elm; riparian vegetation such as large mature Arizona walnut, escarpment black cherry, spicebush, and a beautiful stand of maidenhair and shield fern. The rare plants of note are Canyon mock-orange, Texas indigo-bush, and Heller's marblesseed.

**Leader:** Bill Reiner

**Time Sunday:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous

**Max # of Attendees:** 15

**Distance from Hotel:** 22 miles

**Address:** 8426 ½ Arterial 8, Austin 78750

**Website:** [www.austintexas.gov/department/balcones-canyonlands-preserve-bcp](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/balcones-canyonlands-preserve-bcp)

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#### S8: Wild Basin Nature Preserve (also on Friday F14a – prior to F14b Vireo Preserve hike)

(THIS TRIP IS FULL)

Wild Basin Nature Preserve is at the crossroads of several prominent ecosystems in central Texas: Blackland Prairies to the east, Edwards Plateau to the west, and Cross Timbers-Prairies to the north. This area, known as the "Hill Country," is a transition zone characterized by some of the greatest plant and animal biodiversity found in all of Texas. The topography is known as a "karst" landscape, referring to the shaping of the area by water. Caves, sinkholes, and springs exist throughout as illustrated by our walk to the waterfall. Framed by a dense canopy of Ashe Juniper, Live Oak, Spanish Oak, and Cedar Elm, Wild Basin is also home to eight federally listed species, including 2 songbirds and 6 cave invertebrates. Twenty-seven species, including many plants, are also considered at risk. Some of us consider Wild Basin to be part of our ecological address, or, "what lives here besides us." Come join Paul for a walk through the neighborhood!

**Sunday's walk** will focus on the approximately 100 species of grass at the preserve. We will also look at current native species research that could provide alternatives to present US agricultural practices.

**Leader:** Paul Montgomery

**Time:** 9:30 am – 11:30 am (Emphasis on grasses.)

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate 1 mile round trip hike down to waterfall and back; gentle to moderate slopes on a natural path

**Max # of Attendees:** 15

**Distance from Hotel:** 16 miles

**Address:** 805 N Capitol of Texas Hwy, Austin 78746

**Website:** <https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/wild-basin>

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#### S9: Vireo Preserve (also on Friday F14b – following F14a Wild Basin hike)

(THIS TRIP IS CANCELLED)

The Vireo Preserve habitat consists of creek and canyons that are Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat, and upland areas that are being restored as Black-capped Vireo habitat. Starting from the ground up, the restoration process began with rebuilding soils, seeding broad areas to increase biodiversity, and promoting the regeneration of woody plants. Plant guilds were designed to create a sustainable framework with the goal of developing vibrant, abundant, and complex systems. And numerous rare and unusual native plants have been introduced, including Canyon Mock-Orange, Sycamore-Leaf Snowbell, Big Red Sage, and Spicebush. 214 acres

**Leader:** Jim O'Donnell

**Time:** 9:30 – 11:30 am

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate 1 mile hike

**Max # of Attendees:** 15

**Distance from Hotel:** 16 miles

**Address:** 1107 North Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin TX 78749;

**Physical Location:** Intersection of Loop 360 and Pascal Lane, on the east side of Loop 360, just north of Wild Basin

**Website:** <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/balcones-canyonlands-preserve-bcp>, <http://www.austinparks.org/our-parks.html>

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#### S10: Commons Ford City Park, Austin (also on Friday F13)

Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park is an Austin city park located just west of central Austin. The park consists of approximately 215 acres of diverse habitat including Lake Austin frontage and nesting grounds for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler. A "prairie" of approximately 40 acres encompasses the central portion of the park. The prairie, dormant for nearly 30 years, was comprised primarily of King Ranch Bluestem, Bermuda and Johnsongrass (the "invasives") along with scattered, small mesquite trees. It was a stark contrast to the otherwise vibrant and diverse habitat of the park.

With thanks to Ed Fair, the Commons Fords Prairie Restoration Organization (CFPRO) was formed to return the prairie to its former habitat of native grasses and flowers. Through a coalition of partner agencies, CFPRO was able to find the funds and volunteers to study the land, plan its restoration and follow through with removing the invasives and planting native seeds. What was once an area of exotic non-native grasses with little value to local wildlife has now become a vibrant field of wildflowers and native grasses attracting dozens of bird species and other wildlife. Native plants expected on this field trip include: Little bluestem, Yellow Indiangrass, Sideoats grama, Common sunflower, Maximilian sunflower, Gayfeather, Silver-leaf nightshade, Prairie verbena, Eryngo, Indian mallow. With the restored prairie, pecan groves, riparian zone, canyons and edges, Commons Ford has extremely varied habitats.

**Leader:** Kirsti Harms  
**Time Sunday:** 9:30 – 11:30 am  
**Level of Difficulty:** Easy  
**Max # of Attendees:** 20  
**Distance from Hotel:** 20 miles; about 40 minutes in non-rush hour traffic  
**Address:** 614 N. Commons Ford Rd. Austin 78733  
**Websites:** [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org); [commonsfordpro.blogspot.com](http://commonsfordpro.blogspot.com)

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#### **S11: Barton Creek Habitat Preserve. The Nature Conservancy (also on Friday F11)**

The Barton Creek Habitat Preserve (4,084 acres) nestled along four miles of Barton Creek in southwest Travis County in Austin, is a scenic and pristine landscape that protects the habitat of two species of endangered songbirds in partnership with Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. With the assistance of neighboring landowners, it also preserves the quality of water in the Barton Creek watershed. The upland hills are primarily populated with oaks and little bluestem blending into mature oak/ash/juniper woodlands. Interspersed with the upland woodlands are grassland areas, primarily little bluestem and Indiangrass.

Along the crest and sloping down the canyon walls to the creek bottom, the oaks and junipers transition into sycamore, pecan, black willow, sugarberry, Texas oaks, Texas ash, and elm. The creek sustains bald-cypress, switch grass, common water-willow and water-hyssop. Populations of Gravelbar Brickellbush and Heller's False-Gromwell (Heller's marbleseed) are also found in the creek bed.

**Leader:** Jason Singhurst, Texas Parks and Wildlife Botanist  
**Time:** 9:30 – 11:30 am  
**Level of Difficulty:** Easy  
**Max # of Attendees:** 15  
**Distance from Hotel:** 22 miles; about 30 minutes in non-rush hour traffic  
**Address:** 11617 FM 2244, Austin 78738  
**Note:** Waiver & group report required

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#### **S12: Chaetura Canyon Sanctuary**

Chaetura Canyon is a 10 acre Travis Audubon Sanctuary managed by Paul and Georgan Kyle, and not generally open to the public. In 2006 – after three decades of habitat restoration, migratory bird banding, wildlife rehabilitation, and property acquisition – their homestead and house were donated to Travis Audubon to be maintained as a wildlife sanctuary in perpetuity. The Kyles continue to live on the property conducting tours, classes, and workshops. Chaetura Canyon is an important observatory for the study of Chimney Swifts, *Chaetura pelagica*, from which it gets its name.

The steep and rugged site is typical of the Balcones Canyonlands area. The highest elevation is 760 ft and includes a one acre open field with shallow soil, sparse grasses and forbs. The canyon walls consist of numerous limestone outcroppings and ledges. A wet-weather creek plunges to an elevation of 600 ft at the lowest point before leaving the site and ultimately emptying into the Colorado River. The mile long well-maintained trail through difficult terrain includes steps and switchbacks. Endemic plants that exist along the trail are Scarlet Leatherflower, Plateau Milkvine, Seven-leaf Creeper and Plateau Agalinis.

**Leaders:** Paul and Georgan Kyle, Sanctuary Managers  
**Time:** 9:30 – 11:30 am  
**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Max # of Attendees:** 20  
**Fee:** Donation Recommended  
**Distance:** 28 miles; about 40 minutes  
**Address:** 14246 Hunter's Pass, Austin 78734  
**Website:** <http://travisaudubon.org/conservation/sanctuaries/chaetura-canyon>

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#### **S13: Halifax Ranch (THIS TRIP IS FULL)**

As you drive into the Halifax / Falls Ranches, your first impression could be something like, "Well, this doesn't look so special." But just a mile or so to the south, when the ranch road drops down into the canyon of the Blanco River, you'll realize that first impressions can be wrong. The stretch of the Blanco that passes through the Halifax / Falls Ranches is arguably the most scenic and the most botanically significant of the entire river's length.

Many habitats and communities are present: shrublands on xeric limestone bluffs on south-facing upper slopes, hardwood-juniper woodlands on mesic slopes, pecan woodlands on sandy/loamy river terraces, bald cypress stands along the river bank, special flood-maintained communities on gravel bars, and exposed limestone in the bed of the river itself. The ranch is also home to several side canyons that support mesic canyon woodlands that harbor many Edwards Plateau endemics and eastern disjuncts. There's no way to guarantee what we'll see – beyond scenic beauty and a lot of plant species.

**Leaders:** Bill Carr, Acme Botanical Services; Bill Johnson, Landowner  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. ***Please don't be late.*** Landowner Bill Johnson has offered to accompany us, and we don't want to keep him waiting.  
**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate. There's plenty of rugged topography on the ranch, but we'll avoid it.  
**Max # of Attendees:** 20  
**Distance from Hotel:** 32.5 miles; about 40 minutes  
**Physical Location:** The gate for the Halifax / Falls Ranches is on the south side of R. M. 150 at a slight curve about 2.4-2.5 road miles northwest of its junction with R. M. 2770 (which is just northwest of Kyle).  
**Transport Mode:** Car-pooling will be necessary because parking on the ranch is limited. Anyone with an open-bed pick-up or high-clearance SUV is encouraged to bring them, because we'll re-pack the group into as few vehicles as possible for travel on some unpaved (but good) ranch roads.  
**Map:** GPS point at gate: 30°01'41.78" N, 97°55'34.43" W or, for pasting into Google Earth, 30 01 41.78 N, 97 55 34.43 W.

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#### **S14: Spicewood Ranch (also on Friday F16) (THIS TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELLED)**

The 1,200 acre Spicewood Ranch is approximately 30 miles west of Austin between Spicewood, Texas and the Colorado River. Environmental Survey Consulting has been conducting restoration on the ranch since 1988 for owner Chris Harte. We will explore areas of management success which include restoration in prairies, live oak woodlands, live

oak savannas, ashe juniper breaks; pecan and elm riparian woodland along upper Alligator Creek; a very open rocky riparian community where lower Alligator Creek cuts through the Cow Creek limestone; and post oak savannas in the patches of deeper gravel alluvial terrace soils. Our restoration theories and practices will be discussed.

**Leader:** David Mahler  
**Time:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
**Level of Difficulty:** Easy  
**Max # of Attendees:** 25  
**Distance from Hotel:** 44 miles; about 60 minutes  
**Address:** 637 County Road 411, Spicewood 78669  
**Website:** [www.envirosurvey.com](http://www.envirosurvey.com)

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**S15: Berry Springs Park & Preserve, Georgetown (also on Friday F9)**

Join Park Manager Susan Blackledge, Sue Wiseman & Betsy Ross (Williamson County Chapter) and Marshall C. Johnston (Friday only) as you explore an early Texas homestead property with family cemetery, pecan orchard in creek bottom, mill pond with dock, shaded trails through primitive camping area, and a sunny pasture meadow. A thorough Williamson County plant survey of the park will be provided. Betsy Ross will share her experiences converting the pasture to native prairie using her legendary compost-tea.

Meet us at the Tonkava Pavilion for an orientation before walking the improved trails in a large circle though the meadow, the shaded trails in the primitive camping area, the boardwalk below the mill pond overflow, and back through the pecan orchard. Expect to see: Pigeon-berry, Indian Mallow, Scarlet Spiderling, Purple Leatherflower and Carolina Snaileed Vines, Gay-Feather, Eupatorium serotinum, Prairie agalinis, Eryngo, Creek Plum, and various native grasses in the meadow. This is also the time of the year to view Monarchs in the Frostweed.

**Leaders:** Susan Blackledge; Sue Wiseman & members of Williamson County Chapter  
**Time:** 9:30 – 12:30 am  
**Level of Difficulty:** Easy; wheelchair accessible with crushed granite trails  
**Max # of Attendees:** 30 (will split into two groups)  
**Distance from Hotel:** 41 miles  
**Address:** 1801 County Road 152, Georgetown 78626 (One mile east of Toll Road 130 and IH-35 North intersection)

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**S16: Shield Ranch (also on Thursday T2 and Friday F15 and F16)**

The 6,800 acre Shield Ranch, located in the Barton Creek watershed southwest of Austin, has been in continuous operation by the Shield-Ayres family since its purchase in 1938 by Fred and Vera Shield of San Antonio. The Shield Ranch is well known as a working cattle ranch dedicated to environmental stewardship and public outreach and education. Rotational grazing and active wildlife and habitat management have resulted in a diverse community of plants and animals. Shield Ranch is a refuge for two endangered species of birds, the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo. The conservation values of the ranch are protected by conservation easements held by The Nature Conservancy and the City of Austin.

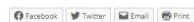
**Leaders:** Bob Ayres, third generation owner and Managing Partner of Shield Ranch; Terri Siegenthaler, Shield Ranch Steward since 2000; Kirsti Harms, President of the Native Prairies Association of Texas and Austin Chapter member.

**Time Sunday:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Max # of Attendees:** 15  
**Distance from Hotel:** 26 miles  
**Distance to Wildflower Center:** 16.5 miles  
**Address:** 16037 Hamilton Pool Rd. Austin 78738  
**Transport Mode:** Plenty of parking is available. However, anyone with an open-bed pick-up or high-clearance SUV is encouraged to drive, because we'll re-pack the group into as few vehicles as possible for travel on some unpaved (but good) ranch roads.

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[Thursday Field Trip Descriptions](#)  
[Friday Field Trip Descriptions](#)

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Home—Field Trips (overview)—Self Guided Field Trips

## Self Guided Field Trips

- Self-guided tours can be attended anytime during the weekend.
- Travel to and from self guided tours in your own vehicle or carpool with others.
- Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy closed walking or hiking shoes.
- Bring: sunglasses, hat, bug spray, water, camera, sunscreen, cellphone, GPS.

To download a PDF copy of Self-guided Field Trip maps, [click here](#).

### #SG1: Bastrop State Park, Self Guided (guided tour Friday #F1)

Bastrop State Park is approximately 6,600 acres – about 30 miles southeast of Austin in Bastrop County. It is the site of the famous “Lost Pines,” an isolated timbered region of loblolly pine, oaks, hickory, walnut, cedar, shrubs, grassland and mixed flowering plants that create a diverse environment important to many species of wildlife. It is part of the ecological region known as the Post Oak Savannah.

Separated from the East Texas Pineywoods by nearly 100 miles, pollen records indicate the pines have persisted in this area for over 18,000 years. Sandy and gravelly soils with a sub-surface layer of water preserving clay help to create an environment where loblolly pines can flourish. Over time the climate became drier but the local sandy aquifer-laced soils provided conditions for the trees to thrive. The pines have become genetically unique, having adapted to 30 percent less rainfall than loblollies from East Texas and adjacent states. This pine-oak woodland covers approximately 70 square miles and is part of the most westerly stand of loblolly pines in the state.

In September 2011, Bastrop State Park and the surrounding pine forest were stricken by wildfire that affected 96 percent of the park. The 1930s era sandstone cabins and facilities constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps were saved. The park is recovering from the fire; most trails, campsites and facilities have reopened to the public.

Park staff describe the most representative trails as starting from the parking area just north of Copperas Creek Camping Area, take the southern side of the purple trail east to the orange trail, go north on orange to the northern side of the purple trail, take the purple trail west to the Overlook (1.5 miles). From there take the red trail back to the original parking area (1.6 miles).

A spring 2014 plant survey by Bill Carr recorded about 140 species in the field trip section, which is not open for public access.

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate

**Fee:** \$5 per adult; \$2.50 if over 65 with Texas Parklands Passport; free with Texas State Parks Pass

**Distance from Hotel:** 27.6 miles from hotel; about 35 minutes

**Address:** 100 Park Road 1A, Bastrop 78602

**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/bastrop>

### #SG2: Buescher State Park, Self Guided

Buescher State Park (along with Bastrop State Park) sits within the Post Oak Savannah ecological region and contains a loblolly pine woodland which is isolated from the main body of the East Texas Pineywoods. These Lost Pines represent the westernmost stand of loblolly pine trees in the United States. Sandy and gravelly soils with a sub-surface layer of water-preserving clay help to create an environment where loblolly pines can flourish. The pines have become genetically unique, having adapted to 30% less rainfall than loblollies from East Texas and adjacent states.

Buescher State Park's one thousand plus acres escaped the fire of 2011. It has almost 8 miles of hike/bike trails through a mosaic of pine, oaks, and shrubs, including a large stand of farkleberry.

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate

**On-site Fee:** \$5 per adult; \$2.50 if over 65 with Texas Parklands Passport; free with Texas State Parks Pass

**Distance from Hotel:** 35 miles from hotel; about 40 minutes

**Address:** Buescher State Park, 100 Park Road 1E, Smithville 78957

**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/buescher>

### #SG3: Colorado River Refuge, Self Guided

The 65 acre Colorado River Refuge is owned by the Pines and Prairies Land Trust and is located adjacent to the Tahitian Village subdivision near Bastrop. There are over three miles of hiking trails that parallel the Colorado River and a tributary creek. The riparian zone of the river is characterized by old-growth cottonwood, bald cypress, black willow, and box elder trees with understory species including broadleaf wood oats, prairie rye, and Turks cap. Along Riverside Drive, there is a meadow with several species of liatris (gay feather, blazing star), an important nectar source for migrating Monarch butterflies. Along the creek, the elevation rises above the flood plain and prevalent tree species include Mexican plum, Texas persimmon, cedar elm, and western soapberry. Native bunch grasses, cacti, and succulents can also be found.

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy – one trailhead is handicapped accessible.

**Fee:** None

**Distance from Hotel:** 27 miles east of symposium hotel; about 40 minutes

**Address:** 350 Riverside Dr., Bastrop 78602

**Website:** (includes printable trail guide) <http://www.ppl.org/preserves/>

### #SG4 McKinney Roughs Nature Park, Self Guided (guided tour Friday #F2)

McKinney Roughs Nature Park is a community resource made available by Lower Colorado River Authority. The park is comprised of 1,100 acres along the Texas Colorado River in Bastrop County with 18 miles of hiking trails.

Four ecosystems are found in the park – Post Oak Savannah, Backland Prairie, Piney Woods and Riparian. Soil structures reflect each ecosystem, the most interesting being in the Piney Woods where porous sand tops a clay layer thus keeping adequate water available for Loblolly Pine roots. A hike on the trail down to the river offers a walk through classic riparian habitat with mature trees and a thick understory lush with many species of vines. The Post Oak Savannah can be observed on the road into headquarters and Backland Prairie incursions can be identified by looking down at the color of the soil – or at your heavy shoes clogged with black sticky mud if there has been a recent rain!

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate

**On-site Fee:** \$5 adult, \$2 over age 65

**Distance from Hotel:** 15 miles; about 17 minutes

**Address:** 1884 Hwy 71 West, Cedar Creek 78612

**Website:** <http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed-parks/Pages/mckinney-roughs-nature-park.aspx>

[Thursday Field Trip Descriptions](#)

[Friday Field Trip Descriptions](#)

[Sunday Field Trip Descriptions](#)

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Schedule

Schedule is subject to change. Updated schedules will be distributed at the symposium.

Time	Event
Thursday, October 15	
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm	In-bound Field Trips
12:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Exhibitors Set-up Open
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm and again at 7:00pm - 9:00 pm	Registration & Check-in Open at the hotel before and after Welcome Reception
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm and again at 7:00pm - 9:00 pm	Silent Auction Items (deliver to registration desk or exhibit area)
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Welcome Reception at LBJWC: Appetizers & Soft Drinks
Friday, October 16	
6:30 am to 8:00 am	Breakfast Buffet
7:00 am to 12 Noon	Registration & Check-in Open Speaker Check-in Open (at registration desk) T-Shirt Sales Open (at registration desk)
7:00 am to 8:00 pm	Exhibit Area Open Photo Contest Open Silent Auction Open (deliver items to registration or exhibit area)
8:00 am to 8:10 am	Friday Plenary Session Begins Welcome & Introductions: Bill Hopkins & Jackie Davis
8:10 am to 9:00 am	Speaker 1: Dr. Andrew Sansom
9:00 am to 9:50 am	Speaker 2: Bob Ayres
9:50 am to 10:10 am	Intermission (free time to visit silent auction & exhibit area)
10:10 am to 11:00 am	Speaker 3: Bill Carr
11:00 am to 11:30 am	Intermission (free time to visit silent auction & exhibit area)
11:15 am to 12 Noon	State Board Meeting
11:30	Attendees Pick up Box Lunches
Noon to 5:00 pm	Field Trips
Evening	Free night to explore Austins many restaurants
Saturday, October 17	
6:30 am to 8:00 am	Breakfast Buffet
7:00 am to 12 Noon	Registration & Check-in Open Speaker Check-in Open (at registration desk)
7:00 am to 5:30 pm	Silent Auction Open Exhibit Area Open Photo Contest Voting Open
8:00 am to 8:10 am	Saturday Plenary Session Begins Announcements - Bill Hopkins & Jackie Davis
8:10 am to 9:00 am	Speaker 4: Dr. George Diggs
9:00 am to 9:50 am	Speaker 5: Dr. Norma Fowler
9:50 am to 11:15 am	Free Time (visit silent auction & exhibitor area)
11:15 am to 12:15 pm	Lunch in Ballroom
11:15 am to 12:15 pm	Annual Members Meeting (Ballroom) - Bill Hopkins
12:15 pm to 12:40 pm	Free Time (visit silent auction & exhibit Area)
12:40 pm to 4:40 pm	Break-out Sessions
12:40 pm to 1:30 pm	Break-out Session I IA: Dr. David Lemke IB: Ed Fair IC: Karen Clary ID: Shockleys & Cheryl Hamilton
1:30 pm to 1:45 pm	Intermission
1:45 pm to 2:35 pm	Break-out Session II IIA: David Bezanson IIB: Emily Booth IIC: Val Bugh IID: Judy Walther IIE: Cecil Carter
2:35 pm to 2:50 pm	Intermission
2:50 pm to 3:40 pm	Break-out Session III IIIA: Cullen Hanks & Anna Strong IIIB: David Mahler IIIC: Kim Ballare IIID: Bill Reiner IIIE: Dennis Perz
3:40 pm to 3:55 pm	Intermission
3:55 pm to 4:45 pm	Break-out Session IV IVA: Valarie Bristol IVB: Jim O'Donnell IVC: Randy Johnson IVD: Leslie Bush IVE: Cecil Carter
4:45 pm to 5:30 pm	Last Chance for Silent Auction Bidding
5:30 pm	Silent Auction Bidding Closes Photo Contest Voting Closes



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Exhibit Area Closes (Exhibitors Tear-down)	
6:30 pm	Silent Auction Check-out Begins
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Social Hour & Cash Bar
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Awards Banquet

Sunday, October 18	
8:00 am to 12 Noon	Exhibitor Tear-down
8:00 am to 10:00 am	T-shirt Sales
8:30 am	Depart for field trips
9:00 am to Noon	Field Trips Start at Location - meet on site

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Silent Auction & Quilt Raffle

Our 2015 Symposium will feature a silent auction to benefit the [Kate Hillhouse Scholarship](#) and [Ann Miller Gonzales Research Grant](#) funds. This is and the quilt raffle are *our only annual fundraiser 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:

2015 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, 2015.**

Quilt Raffle

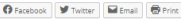


Quilt made by Tricia Hopkins of the Cross Timbers Chapter.

This year's quilt is made from past symposium t-shirts by Tricia Hopkins, of the Cross Timbers Chapter, specifically for this fundraiser. Tickets will be sold at various chapter meetings before the symposium and at the Silent Auction area during the symposium. The winner will be announced at the Saturday night awards banquet.

Quilt Raffle	
Single Tickets	\$2
Three Tickets	\$5
Seven Tickets	\$10
Fifteen Tickets	\$20

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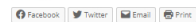
## Photography Contest

Dust off your camera and submit your best nature images to the symposium Photography Contest. This year we are introducing an all digital format for entry and display, making it easier for everyone to participate. No need to print and frame your photos!

### 2015 Photography Contest Rules

1. Photographs entered must feature plants native to Texas. The image files should be named by the common name or the scientific name (Genus + species ), or both.  
Example: Texas\_Bluebonnet\_(*Lupinus texensis*).jpg
2. Any photographer may enter online between **August 1** through **September 30**.
3. Photographers must use the [2015 Photo Contest Entry Form](#) to enter their photographs. Image files should be attached to the online entry form as either individual JPEG ("jpg") files or as a single "ZIP" file. Attachment files are limited to 10 MB in size. Alternately, the form may be printed and filled out by hand and emailed to [photocontest@npsot.org](mailto:photocontest@npsot.org). Digital images should measure between 1024 pixels to 1366 pixels on the long side. For display at the symposium, all images will be resized to a uniform size or height.
4. Photographers must enter in either the **Professional** or **Amateur** Division. Professionals include both self-employed photographers as well as employees whose job descriptions include production of media content.
5. Each photographer may enter one image file in each of three categories for a total of three entries:
  - A. **Plants native to Texas:** All or part of any plant native to Texas, at any stage in its life cycle.
  - B. **Scenic/Landscape photos of Texas:** Identify up to three major plants in scenic/landscape entries. Landscapes of natural settings without human artifacts are preferred.
  - C. **Native Plants = Healthy Habitats:** Photos that include native plants in context/relationship with native wildlife in natural habitats.
6. Photographs entered in our previous photo contests are not eligible for consideration.
7. By entering the contest, the photographer agrees to the Terms of Use. Copyright of the work remains with the photographer; requests for any use other than as specified in the Terms of Use will be referred to the photographer.
8. **Awards:** First place awards in each Category and Division will be determined through judging based on criteria for scientific illustration, principles of art and design, and technical photography skills (Pros' Picks), and by popular vote of symposium attendees (Peoples' Choice). Value of and type of awards will be determined by sponsors. The Society may publish photographs of winners receiving awards and of photos entered on its website, newsletter, and other locations on the internet where they may be offered for sale in order to raise funds to support the Society's goals and mission.

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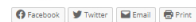
## Photography Contest

Dust off your camera and submit your best nature images to the symposium Photography Contest. This year we are introducing an all digital format for entry and display, making it easier for everyone to participate. No need to print and frame your photos!

### 2015 Photography Contest Rules

1. Photographs entered must feature plants native to Texas. The image files should be named by the common name or the scientific name (Genus + species ), or both.  
Example: Texas\_Bluebonnet\_(*Lupinus texensis*).jpg
2. Any photographer may enter online between **August 1** through **September 30**.
3. Photographers must use the [2015 Photo Contest Entry Form](#) to enter their photographs. Image files should be attached to the online entry form as either individual JPEG ("jpg") files or as a single "ZIP" file. Attachment files are limited to 10 MB in size. Alternately, the form may be printed and filled out by hand and emailed to [photocontest@npsot.org](mailto:photocontest@npsot.org). Digital images should measure between 1024 pixels to 1366 pixels on the long side. For display at the symposium, all images will be resized to a uniform size or height.
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[Home](#)—[Exhibitors & Vendors](#)

## Exhibitors & Vendors

We are now accepting applications for 2015 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 October 1, 2015.** To reserve your space, download the [PDF form](#), fill it out and mail it, along with your check or credit card information, to:

**2015 Symposium Exhibits**  
**Native Plant Society of Texas**  
**PO Box 3017**  
**Fredericksburg, TX 78624**

Or email to: [state@npsot.org](mailto:state@npsot.org)

### Booth space rental rates are as follows:

No Fee – Unstaffed educational display  
No Fee – Sponsor display  
No Fee – Speaker display  
No Fee – Staffed educational display with no sales  
\$50.00 – Vendor with sales

### Tables and electricity are separate from booth space. Rates are as follows:

\$43.00 per day – Tables – or bring your own table and save!  
\$31.00 per day – Electricity

The Exhibit Hall will be open on Friday and Saturday, and exhibitors/vendors may choose to display one or both days. Symposium participants will be off premises Friday afternoon for field trips and on premises all day Saturday.

Meals are available at the hotel restaurant. Click below for a menu.

[Breakfast](#) menu

[Lunch](#) menu

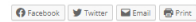
[Dinner](#) menu



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[Home](#)—[Sponsorship](#)

## Sponsorship

The Native Plant Society of Texas invites you to help underwrite the costs of the 2015 Symposium. Due to its location in Austin, this year's symposium is proving to be more expensive per attendee than any other symposium to date. **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 2015 Symposium fund. No need to worry – all online donations and information are handled in a secure manner. To donate online, click [here](#).

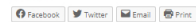
### Mail-in donations:

Click on the link below to download a mailable form. Mail your completed form and check to:

**2015 Symposium**  
**Native Plant Society of Texas**  
**PO Box 3017**  
**Fredericksburg, TX 78624**

To download mailable form, click [here](#).

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## Our Sponsors

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of our 2015 symposium:

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Cathy Lustgarten  
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Kim Soechting

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