The Native Plant Society of Texas
Big Bend chapter
2019-2020 programs

Learning to Garden with Natives in the Texas Big Bend
Sept 14 ~
Alpine Library 10-12
~ New to gardening in the High Desert? Inherit an old landscape/build a new house and at a loss for what to do? Trying to attract pollinators and birds? Help is on the way! – the Big Bend Gardener’s Guide and the folks who wrote it will help you use the guide to get the most out of your garden. Talk with the experts ask questions and take some positive steps in your landscape as fall weather invites us to spend more time outdoors.

Native Landscape Certification Program
Oct. 12 ~
Alpine Library 10-12
~ Learn to design your own landscape! Meg Inglis, from the NPSOT state office, heads up the statewide landscape certification program. She joins us today to introduce us to this landscaping program and show us how it works. When they begin, the NLCP classes will be separate from our regular programs and offered as full day workshops during the spring or fall. The NLCP has been a big success in Central and East Texas, why not here? You can read the details here: https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/course-descriptions.

Water-wise Gardening and the creation of the book Marfa Garden
Nov. 2 ~
A Marfa Garden 10-12
~ Jim Martinez takes us through an 18 month old garden in central Marfa. We’ll see how he planned the landscape to be beautiful with rainwater, drip irrigation and other water-saving design elements. And we’ll also get to visit with Jim and his colleagues about their new book Marfa Garden. Bring your check book – at $35 the book is a steal, and it’ll be autographed by the creators to boot!

Invasive Exotics on the River
Dec. 7 ~
Lajitas 830-130
~ Presenter Wildlife Biologist Raymond Skiles has leant his impressive skills to Big Bend National Park over a 30 year career in the park, including invasive species removal, both plant and animal. We’ll gather at the Barton Warnock Visitors’ Center on Hwy. 170, one mile east of Lajitas, and then hike along the river to examine and discuss the invasive plant species threatening the health of the river and food and habitat for native species. Times include travel and the program. Bring a lunch, water and dress for the occasion!

Climate Change: Changes and Effects
Jan. 18 ~
Alpine Library 10-1
~ Speakers include Texas State Climatologist Dr. John Nielson-Gammon of Texas A&M University and others tba. Climate change is coming and could affect every living thing. What will it look like in west Texas? Hotter and drier? Hotter and wetter? Drier with bigger fires or bigger floods? And...so what? What will become of our mountain woodlands and high grasslands? Hear from experts on the topics of climate change and its effects upon our desert and mountain environment. We'll also consider strategies to influence, manage and adapt to those changes.
Wasps
Feb. 1 ~
Alpine Library 10-12
~ Cynthia McAlister, The ‘Bee Goddess,’ is back, but this time she’s the ‘Wasp Goddess’ leading us into adventures with this important pollinator and crop protector. Currently faculty at Sul Ross, Cynthia has degrees in biology and environmental science. As a former CDRI staffer she has created and presented trainings and workshops about pollination and pollinators for a variety of audiences. Wasps are often given a bad rep because we tend to think of them only as building nests in inconvenient places. But they are really heroes in the natural world and a large and varied species. Cynthia will reveal all and leave you appreciating even the guys that build the nests!

Dr. Michael Powell and the Sul Ross Herbarium
March 21 ~
Sul Ross Herbarium 10-12
~ (Limit 20 people because of space limitations at the herbarium). Dr. Powell will introduce us to the herbarium – show us how it works and give us a lesson in plant pressing. And when we’re done, we will have learned how to press and annotate plants that will be suitable donations to the important work of this outstanding facility.

Botanizing the Caballos Novaculite
April 4 ~
South of Marathon 10-12
~ Botanizer extraordinaire Patty Manning leads us on a hike on Guy Combs’ ranch south of Marathon through one of the area’s outstanding novaculite formations. We’ll see and identify the plants that call these rock formations home. 400 million years ago, when continents were on the move, the collision of mountain ranges pushed to the surface a silica-rich, crystalline chert called the Caballos novaculite. This stone is harder than steel and has outlasted much of the softer stone around it to produce the zig-zagging rocks that look like a dragon’s back atop the low mountains in the Marathon Basin. And it’s also produced a particular population of plants that we’ll explore.

Plant Sale
April 25 ~
Old One Way Nursery, Ave. E and N. 8th Sts., Alpine 9-1
~ It’s time to plant, and we’ll have the usual and the unusual in herbaceous plants, shrubs, trees and surprises. You’re invited to volunteer to get the first choice of plants. Again, we’re back at the old One Way at 8th and Ave. E. It only happens once a year! More info as we get closer.

Please plan to make a reservation for each program. Some are limited seating but all will need a count for handouts and/or seating. All programs are free to npsot members and guests are welcome – we ask a $5 donation per person. That $5 can be used toward a new membership on the same day. Membership info is available at every meeting.
To make reservations, please e-mail Fonda Ghiardi at fondag@sbcglobal.net. Please tell her your name, the number in your party, your e-mail and your phone – just in case we need to reach you.
Reservations are made for each meeting as we go along. You will receive a reminder of the meeting about two weeks ahead with news about when registration opens and anything else that’s pertinent. The public is always welcome and will see info in the papers, on our web site and Face Book the week before the meeting.
We do our best to offer the programs above as listed. But scheduling, illness or other issues may arise that cause us to change a program. We do our utmost not to do that, but in the event of a changed program, we will do our best to make the new program worthy of your attendance!