Williamson County Chapter Native Plant Society Meeting Minutes 03-13-14

Welcome: Kathy Henderson called the meeting to order with 36 members and 8 guests.

Treasurer’s Report: Cindy Stone reported $1,415.07 in checking and $8,957.70 in savings for a current total of $10,372.77.

Field Trips: Report by Kathy McCormack. March 22 – Highland Lakes NPSOT member invitation to Cedar Stump Ranch to see rare native plants.

Spring Plant Sale: Randy Pensabene extended an invitation to all to attend and to volunteer at the Wildflower Center Plant sale. Work days are April 10 through April 13. This is a major fundraiser for the chapter. No previous experience is needed for volunteering. Plant signs with information are provided for a variety of native plants, including unusual ones not found in nurseries. Milkweeds will be available. Volunteers for the Wildflower Center’s ‘walk & talk’ program are also needed; contact Randy Pensabene.

Other Opportunities: Marilyn Perz is ordering chapter t-shirts in tan or green. March 22 is the Monarch display at the Taylor Garden Expo and volunteers are needed to staff the table. Marilyn Perz also provided a sign up for the Wildflower Center Plant sale.

Announcements: March 22 – Sun City Horticulture Club plant sale and Residential Irrigation Workshop at AgriLife building. April 6 – Seed balls activity at Our Lady of the Rosary cemetery spring event. April 26 - Spring Seminar at Wildflower Center featuring Dr. Doug Tallamy.

NPSOT – Wilco board elections will be this summer. Contact Kathy Henderson if interested in a board position.

Southwestern University student gardeners are in need of donated native plants; contact Kathy Henderson.

Garden Grants: Kathy Henderson presented a check to Nancy Phillips for the Good Water Master Naturalists youth program for native plants to add to their butterfly garden. At this meeting photos of previous garden grant sites were featured on tri-fold display boards.

Plant ID Activity: Stephen Brueggerhoff presented slides of 2 plants for audience identification.

Programs: The April 10 meeting guest will be Fred Hall, Wilco agent, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; topic: Rain Gardens.

Program: Guest was Dr. Karen Clary from the Wildflower Center. The topic was seed saving for conservation of the native Texas Ash species; she focused on the potential for emerald ash borer distribution into Texas, and steps being taken to conserve this native species by seed banking.

Addendum: Following the program, the NPSOT-Wilco Garden Grant committee handed out door prizes (4" containers with Texas bluebonnet sprouts) to guests, new members, member who traveled the farthest to attend, eldest and youngest; remaining plants contributed to the Southwest University garden group.