Williamson County Chapter Native Plant Society Meeting Minutes 04-10-14

Welcome: Kathy Henderson called the meeting to order welcoming 36 members and recognizing 5 guests.

Announcements:

Library Demo Garden: Kathy Henderson and Eric Lashley, Library Director, have corresponded re: this project. The ongoing issue of cigarette butts in the new garden is being discussed.

Georgetown Conservation Services Dept: Marilyn Perz, Agnes Plutino and Kathy Henderson attended a meeting on April 7 with Shae Luther and staff to discuss quarterly workshops this department is planning to offer beginning in June. Initial topics will include new plantings and maintenance for spring and fall. A Nature Trail is being developed near Shae’s office.

NPSOT State Board Meeting: April 19 at the Heard Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney. Kathy Henderson will give a presentation on the benefits of demo gardens using our library garden and our pollinator garden as examples.

Community Outreach: Stephen Brueggerhoff has been lecturing with a Parks & Rec Dept. and an HOA. Kathy Henderson consulted with the Grounds Committee at the Wesleyan at Estrella. Art Gibson leads nature walks.

Other Community Outreach: Kathy Henderson is tracking other organizations and individuals doing Native Plant activities. Send her an email – khend@verizon.net – with your involvement.

Seed Board: A free seed exchange is available at monthly meetings.

Native Certification Landscape Program: Dennis Perz presented information on the state level NCLP which will offer 4 levels of training. Two training sessions are budgeted for Wilco; volunteers will be needed to bring classes here; they can contact Dennis if interested. Level 1 is an entry level introduction to general landscape design geared to natives; Level 2 is best practices associated with development; additional levels will be developed with topics such as maintenance and habitat ecology.

NPSOT Brochures: The Georgetown Downtown Visitors Center now has the brochures; please notify Kathy Henderson if you know of a place that will display our brochures.

Reports:

Spring Plant Sale: Randy Pensabene thanked members for their participation. The chapter’s plant selection included new and unusual plants. She provided a list of plants. This is a major fundraiser for the chapter running April 11-13.

Treasurer’s Report: Cindy Stone reported $1,824.06 in checking and $8,957.77 in savings for a current total of $10,781.83. She also explained the use of the ‘Square’ for accepting credit cards at the plant sale.

OLOTR Event: Cindy Stone reported on the April 6 event; guests enjoyed the nature trail and meadow restoration. She also reported on the upcoming May 10 Central Texas Home & Garden Show in downtown Hutto. NPSOT will be represented with a booth and a native seed starter children’s activity. Presentations on Wildlife Habitats with Native Plants will be presented by Cindy Stone.

Volunteers: Marilyn Perz is in need of volunteers for May 3, Pioneer Days at Old Settlers’ Park in Round Rock and for May 4 for the Bamberger Ranch; both are for children’s activities. Walt Henderson shared his experiences visiting Bamberger Ranch encouraging members to participate in this special event. Kathy Galloway needs volunteers for Dino Days in Cedar Park on May 10. Cindy Stone is the contact for volunteers for the Hutto Home and Garden Show on May 10.

Garden Grants: Photos of the Taylor Middle School and Taylor Murphy Park projects were on display.

Field Trips: Report by Vicky Husband. April 16 – River Ranch County Park, Leander; April 24 – Plant Survey 8 of 12 at Berry Springs Park and Preserve. A tentative field trip to Peckerwood Garden & Yucca Do Nursery is rescheduled for a later date TBD.

Programs: Stephen Brueggerhoff reviewed upcoming dates and events: 4/11-13 - Wildflower Center Plant Sale & Festival; 4/19 - NPSOT Meeting, McKinney; 4/26 - Spring Seminar at WFC featuring Dr. Doug Tallamy; 5/8 - NPSOT Wilco meeting, “Saving Prairies” w/ Pat Merkord, Native Prairies Association of Texas ; 6/12 - NPSOT Wilco meeting, “Library Garden” w/ Diane Sherrill of Native Earthscapes; 7/10 - NPSOT Wilco annual members’ potluck and planning meeting.

Program:

Plant ID Activity: Stephen Brueggerhoff presented photos of unusual Indian Paintbrushes for audience identification.
Program: Stephen Brueggerhoff presented “Rain Gardens for Water Conservation.”