10 JULY 2014 GENERAL NPSOT MEETING

A rather small group of us gathered on 10 July and enjoyed the delicious refreshments served by the Red Poppy Café while we reviewed and considered our activities during the past year. Randy Pensabene had prepared a spread sheet of all those activities which clearly showed us our investment in time and energy. The board had previously analyzed the same information and discussed whether we wanted to continue all the same activities. Ray Wahrenbrock did the math to figure out that 25 % of our membership filled the volunteer slots for those activities. While we would love to have more members involved in this way, we recognized that this is a good percentage compared to most volunteer organizations. As we presented this spread sheet to those congregated for the meeting, many good discussions were spawned. Lots of great ideas for achieving our vision and mission were offered, some of which are listed below.

To help residents visualize the possibilities: Trips to residential gardens...a garden walk; Put pictures up on the Conservation Dept. site; Drive by garden tours

Distribution of our brochures: Chamber of Commerce, Visitor Centers in other towns, Extension office

Establish liaison with county: Has Sue Wiseman been doing this? And Marilyn Perz? (esp. with the Pollinator Garden); Need more water conservation efforts in the County; County Commissioners must get CEU’s in roadside maintenance, etc. Get them to NLCP classes

Removal of Invasives: Charles Newsom does this at Miller Springs Park; Trail Tamers does this along the San Gabriel in Georgetown; what about planting natives where the Invasives were removed? Will contact Heather Brewer McFarling; Check Berry Springs’ web site....

Building our membership activity level: Kathy McCormack: poster; Monkey survey; Have a plant raffle each meeting

Speakers’ Bureau: We discussed the idea of a Speakers’ Bureau as a new way of spreading the word about native plants and NPSOT. There was agreement that this would be a viable new program.

State Newsletter: Walt Henderson asked a few questions regarding the state newsletter, NPSOT News, and gathered the input from the group as a pilot for helping to determine whether to continue printing the News or move to an electronic publication only. He will take this information to the state board meeting.

County Agent: Dennis Perz reported on his contact with Fred Hall, the county agent at AgriLife. Fred Hall is interested in increasing the interaction of his agency with NPSOT and mentioned the possibility of NPSOT creating a demo garden of natives at the AgriLife building. We plan on asking him to be a speaker at a future chapter meeting.

Submitted by Kathy Henderson, President