Williamson County Chapter
Chapter Meeting Minutes for
January 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm with 36 people in attendance, including one guest and one new member. President Cindy Stone and others presented announcement slides. The slides are summarized below.

New Members: Two new members were announced and one additional new member attended tonight. Welcome!

Reports:

Treasurer: Cindy Stone presented for Lori Merlino. Ending balance as of December 31, 2014 is $14,187.08, with $9,128.73 in checking and $5,058.34 in savings. Deposits/Checks of note are Silent Auction proceeds of $559.15 and the Native Plants=Healthy Habitats Garden Grant to Reagan Elementary for $200. 4th Quarter taxes have been sent to NPSOT at $353.64.

Field Trips: Cindy Stone presented for Vicky Husband. Southwest Williamson County Regional Park, Sunday February 1, 2015. Park address 3005 CR 175, Leander, Texas 78641. No RVSP required. This trip will walk the 1.7 mile Granite Trail. Meet in the parking lot west of the running track a few minutes before 2pm to sign in and use the restrooms. For additional information, see Vicky Husband or go to Field Trips on the website.

Taxonomy Classes for 2015: Dr. Flo Oxley will teach. January 24, February 28, March 28 at Bethany United Methodist Church, 10010 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, Texas. 9:00am to 12:00pm. Class fee is $10.00 per class. First class is grasses. Handouts can be printed from the website under resources-plant taxonomy class. Later dates in 2015 are June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26. There was a signup sheet at the back of the room. Contact Sue Wiseman for information.

Volunteer Opportunity: Presented by Marilyn Perz. Tree Talk Winter Walk, Saturday January 24, 2015. 9:00am to 5:00pm. Setup at 8:00am. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Clipboard for signup is at the back of the room. Helping with events like this is a way to support the Wildflower Center which lets our chapter have its booth at WFC plant sales.

Website Committee: Presented by Bob Kamper. Bob provided answers to questions he receives about the chapter website. 1) You do not need a login to use the site. Login IDs are only used by people authorized to create content. Anyone can access the public areas of the site. Anyone can comment on any blog or story where comments are accepted. 2) There are several categories of users. Visitors/Guests can access public areas and do not receive notices for new postings. Subscribers can access public areas and do receive email notices for new
postings. (Requires an email address upon subscribing.) 3) There are several categories of content providers with different levels of privilege on the site. Content providers do require a userid and password. The levels are Contributor, Author, Editor, and Website Administrator. For questions, use the "Contact Us" form on the website.

Thank You to the President: Bob Kamper presented a 2015 Wildflower calendar with his amazing photos to Cindy Stone for all her work.

Native Landscaping Certification Courses: Presented by Randy Pensabane. Courses for early 2015 are planned. Additional courses may be held in May and are planned to be held in the Fall. Level One will be Saturday February 14, 2015, $37.00. Level Two will be Saturday February 28, 2015, $37.00 for NPSOT members. $52.00 for non-members. You must have taken Level One in order to take Level Two. Both courses are held at the Williamson County AgriLife Extension Office, Georgetown Texas. 8:00am to 4:00pm. Bring your own lunch. Register at http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/class-schedule If you would like to help at a class, contact Stephen Brueggerhoff.

Other Upcoming Events:

State NPSOT Board Meeting: Open to all NPSOT members. Saturday January 17, 2015. Fort Worth Nature Center. 10am to 3pm. RSVP to Pam Middleton.


Other Announcements

Dan Berry said he had previously spoken with a member from Sun City. If you need space for small garden, he has room on his property. Contact Dan.

Cindy announced that Dennis Perz is our chapter liaison to the state. See Dennis if you have input.

NPAT postponed its January event to February. See NPAT for information.

Tonight's Program

Remarkable Plants of Texas, by Matt Warnock Turner, PhD. In 2009, Matt's book won NPSOT's Carroll Abbott Memorial Award for best writing in a popular vein on Texas native plants. He is an active member of the Native Plant Society of Texas and a past president of the Austin Chapter. Matt has appeared on a guest on Central Texas Gardner and starred in the PBS documentary "Wildflowers: Seeds of History". Matt is a fifth generation Texan and a native of Austin.

Minutes submitted by Pat Donica