The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Cindy Stone, President. 32 people attended in total, including 3 guests and 1 new member. Cindy and others presented announcement slides and program slides, which are summarized below.

Reports/Announcements

**Treasurer: Presented by Cindy Stone for Lori Merlino.** The ending balance for all accounts is $16,334.04, with two checks outstanding -- $500 for Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas and $1500 for the State Symposium.

Purchases made under Amazon Smile can be designated for the Native Plant Society of Texas. The organization will receive 0.5% on Amazon Smile-eligible purchases from Amazon. See [https://smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and [https://smile.amazon.com/about](https://smile.amazon.com/about) for information.

**Field Trips: Presented by Vicky Husband.** For additional information and directions, see the Field Trips tab on the chapter website, [http://npsot.org/wp/wilco/field-trips/](http://npsot.org/wp/wilco/field-trips/)

- July 15, 2015, Southwest Williamson County Regional Park, Plant survey. 8:00am-10:30 am. CR 175 in Cedar Park. Meeting place: small asphalt parking lot at E-SE corner of Rotary, adjacent to running track. RSVP not required.
- No field trip for August
- Save the Date: September 12, 2015, Southwest Williamson County Regional Park, Plant Survey. 8:30am – 11:00am. CR 175 – north of traffic light on FM 1431. Park entrance on your right. This will be the 4th of 12 plant ID surveys

**Taxonomy: Presented by Kathy Galloway for Sue Wiseman.** Saturday July 25, 2015. 9:00am-12:00pm. Class leader: Dr. Flo Oxley. Save the date: Saturday, August 22nd and Saturday, September 26th. Location: Unity Church of the Hills, 9905 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, Texas. Unity Oaks Building to the left of the Main Sanctuary. Class fee: $10/class. The fee covers the cost of room rental, honorarium, and refreshments.

**Texas Native Plant Week 2015: Chair Cindy Stone.** This will be the 6th year for this event. Oct 19th-25th. This year's outreach focuses on schools with art projects related to native plants. See [txnativeplantweek.org](http://txnativeplantweek.org) for information.

- These chapter members are state committee members in a wide variety of areas: Kathy Galloway, Sue Wiseman, Beth Blankenship, Cindy Stone, Bob Kamper, Vicky Husband and Stephen Brueggerhoff, serving on committees including logo design, gift bags, photo contest, field trip planning and publicity.
- Cindy asked for a show of hands for these categories: planning to attend the Symposium; planning to attend the Thursday night WFC get-together; planning to attend the Saturday night dinner; planning to stay at the conference hotel during the Symposium.
- Bob Kamper chairs the Photography Contest. Cindy is a member of the committee. Photographers may enter as an amateur or professional. All-digital format for entries. Two awards will be presented: Pick of the Pros and People's Choice Awards. The committee is still seeking sponsors. Judges are still being recruited. Additional information to be posted on npsot.org under State Symposium [http://npsot.org/wp/symposium2015/](http://npsot.org/wp/symposium2015/)
  - **Three photography categories:** 1) Native Texas Plants (feature a single plant or species, whether whole or in part, bloom, or achenes, seeds, stems, or leaves); 2) Scenic/Landscape (feature natural vistas of native plants. Typically these will be of natural landscapes with no or little evidence of human impact); 3) Native Plants = Healthy Habitats (will include native plants in context or in relationship to wildlife/habitats).
  - **Picks of the Pros** will be judged independently by judges with experience and expertise in the areas using rating scales appropriate to each of the domains: technical photography, art and graphic design, and botanical science. Judging will be completed prior to the Symposium and winning entries will be announced at the Symposium Awards Banquet. Combined scores of all three domains will determine award.
  - **Peoples’ Choice Awards** will be conducted during the symposium via a popular vote by attendees.

Tonight’s Program

*NPSOT – Wilco, A Year in Review, August 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015*, presented by Cindy Stone. This presentation summarized the many different activities and contributions made by the Chapter in the last year. The information will go into the annual report submitted by the Chapter President to the State organization later this year. The slides are included in this document as an attachment to the minutes.

*Note: Cindy had to leave tonight's meeting at this point due to another commitment, but was only allowed out the door after a resounding round of applause from the entire Chapter thanking Cindy for her hard work and dedication!*

*Board Member Nominations for September 2015-2016*, presented by Dennis Perz. Kathy Henderson, Kathy Comer and Dennis served as this year's nominating committee. Dennis showed the current nominees and positions for which there was no nominee. He spoke about the need for the Chapter to find ways to engage members in order to foster the sense of belonging and ownership. Dennis
asked members to consider volunteering for the vacant positions. Kathy Galloway pointed out that by-laws require at least a President and Treasurer or the chapter must disband. For the three elected positions that had no nominees, Dennis Perz, Kathy Galloway, and Black Wehling volunteered from the floor. The election was held with a voice vote. There were no nays. The new board positions take office in September.

These are the elected Board positions for 2015-2016, showing the slate of nominees at the start of the meeting vs. the slate elected during the meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected Board Positions</th>
<th>Coming into July 9th Meeting</th>
<th>Elected at the July 9th Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Walt Henderson</td>
<td>Walt Henderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>no nominee</td>
<td>Dennis Perz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>no nominee</td>
<td>Kathy Galloway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Pat Donica</td>
<td>Pat Donica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-Large Director 1</td>
<td>Mike Farley</td>
<td>Mike Farley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-Large Director 2</td>
<td>no nominee</td>
<td>Black Wehling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Board positions are not elected. Dennis thanked the folks who have served in these roles this last year (not necessarily listed here unless the person is continuing in that role), and people who agreed to serve this next year. Dennis pointed out the need for a new Volunteer Coordinator. Kathy Comer volunteered from the floor.

These are non-elected board positions, showing the volunteers for the next year at the start of the meeting vs. the end of the meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Positions-Not Elected</th>
<th>Coming into July 9th Meeting</th>
<th>At the July 9th Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Dan Barry</td>
<td>Dan Barry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Ray &amp; Sallie Wahrenbrock</td>
<td>Ray &amp; Sallie Wahrenbrock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Sale</td>
<td>Randy Pensabene</td>
<td>Randy Pensabene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip Coordinator</td>
<td>Vicky Husband</td>
<td>Vicky Husband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Leaders</td>
<td>Kathy Henderson, Christie Gardner</td>
<td>Kathy Henderson, Christie Gardner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>no nominee</td>
<td>Kathy Comer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not shown above: Immediate Past President, which by definition will move from Kathy Henderson for 2014-2015 to Cindy Stone for 2015-2016.

___

Minutes submitted by Pat Donica.

See the attachment starting on the next page.
NPSOT – Wilco

A Year in Review

August 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015
Board Members

President: Cindy Stone  
Past President: Kathy Henderson  
Vice President: Christie Gardner  
Secretary: Pat Donica  
Treasurer: Lori Merlino

Plant Sales: Randy Pensabene  
Field Trips: Vicky Husband  
Webmaster: Bob Kamper  
Directors at large: Kathy Comer & Jim Abreu  
Volunteer Cordinator: Marilyn Perz  
Membership: Ray & Sallie Wahrenbrock

Board Meetings

September 8, 2015  
November 16, 2015  
January 25, 2015  
March 22, 2015  
May 17, 2015  
June 4, 2015
History: NPSOT-Wilco began in Spring 1997

Membership Households: 108

Geographic distribution:

Georgetown, Florence, Round Rock, Taylor, Hutto, Liberty Hill, Leander, Cedar Park, Sun City, Thrall, Granger

Also, our members list Austin, Bastrop, and Belton as their home counties.

My goal as President:

- Encourage citizens throughout Williamson County to be involved with our Chapter
- Offer education of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers throughout Williamson County
- Participation by example in wildlife gardens utilizing native plants. Certification of wildlife gardens as Monarch Waystations, NWF Wildlife Habitats, & Texas Wildscapes.
- Education of native plants and wildlife habitats to college and school age children.
Research

- Propagation of various milkweeds by various members
- Field Trips with Plant ID surveys: Berry Springs Park & Preserve and Southwest Williamson County Regional Park
- Propagation with donated seed of different natives by Wright’s Nursery
- Art Gibson: identification of Williamson County native plants
- Charles Newsom: identification and removal of invasive plants in Williamson County parks
Conservation

Plant Rescues: Ilse Meier

Excellent examples of preservation and conservation of natives.

- Ilse Meier’s ranch
- Kathy Comer’s ranch

Our Lady of the Rosary Cemetery & Prayer Garden
Nature trail and meadow

Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas: planting natives nectar and native milkweed for Monarchs on schoolyards and community gardens

Utilization of Native Plants & Plant Habitats

Native Plants = Healthy Habitats

Pollinator Garden

Georgetown Public Library

Schoolyards:

- Ronald Reagan Elementary
- Hutto Elementary
- Veteran’s Hill Elementary
- Cottonwood Creek Elementary
- Nadine Johnson Elementary
- Hutto HeadStart Program

Southwestern University

Our Lady of the Rosary Cemetery & Prayer Garden
Education

Speaker’s Bureau
Habitat Hutto Community Classes
Native Landscaping Certification Program
Wildflower Center Plant Sales
Community Booths promoting NPSOT and children’s activities
General Meetings, Seed Swap, Natives 101
School programs “Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas”

Native Landscaping Certification Program
Stephen Brueggerhoff & Randy Pensabene

Sep Level One: 32 attendees
Oct Level Two: 21 attendees

May Level One: 32 attendees
June Level Two: 20 attendees

Level One and Two will be offered again in the fall.
Level Three is now being offered in Fort Worth on November 7th
To register and additional information: npsot.org under Education Tab
General Meetings Monthly Programs

- “Plant Rescue – Experience from the Trenches” – Ed Travis
- “Native Plants – Native People” – Leslie Bush
- “Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas” – Cathy Downs
- “Remarkable Plants of Texas” – Matt Turner
- “Gardening for Wildlife with Native Plants” Andrea Delong-Amaya

- “Oak Wilt & Drought” – Emily Driscoll
- “Texas Drought Project” – Jere Locke
- “Falling for Native Plants” – Betsy Ross
- “Really Weird Sex in the Garden” – Flo Oxley
Field Trips

• Blue Hole – September 2014
• Berry Springs Park & Preserve * – October 2014
• Miller Springs at Lake Belton – November 2014
• Berry Springs Park & Preserve * – December 2014
• SW Williamson County Regional Park * – February 2015

* plant ID surveys

• Brushy Creek in Round Rock – March 2015
• Travel to The Edge – April 2015
• Westside Park – June 2015
• SW Williamson County Regional Park * – July 2015

* Plant ID Surveys
Native Plants = Healthy Habitats
Garden Grants

Committee Members:

- Kathy Galloway
- Cindy Stone
- Marilyn Perz
- Vicky Husband
- Kathy Henderson

Grants were awarded to Reagan Elementary School & Southwestern University Garden Club

Outreach

Donation of adult and children’s library books on native plants to the following libraries during Texas Native Plant Week 2014.

- Taylor
- Round Rock
- Hutto
- Georgetown
- Cedar Park
- Leander
- Liberty Hill
- Florence

Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas donation: $500
State Symposium: $1500
Native Plants = Healthy Habitats Grants: $400
Library Books: $600
Outreach

Renewable Energy Roundup & Sustainable Living Expo 2014

Habitat Hutto with 2 community classes on native plants in wildlife habitats to citizens of Hutto

WFC “Tree Talk, Winter Walk” Children Activity

Reagan Elementary “Spring Carnival”

Pioneer Days

Red Poppy Festival

Outreach Through Technology

NPSOT-Wilco website – the website is constantly reviewed for access of information availability to viewers
Subscribers: 190

Meetup.com – Native Plant Society of Texas
Williamson County - meetings are published as well as Taxonomy Classes
Subscribers: 42

Facebook.com – Native Plant Society of Texas
Williamson County – is currently under design
Example

Schoolyard habitats
Cottonwood Creek Elementary
Veteran's Hill Elementary
Hutto Elementary
Nadine Johnson Elementary
Hutto Head Start

Georgetown Public Library

Pollinator Garden

Native Plant Society of Texas
“Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas”

The following schools in Hutto, Texas are certified as Monarch Watch program Monarch Waystations

Veteran’s Hill Elementary
Hutto Elementary
Nadine Johnson Elementary
Hutto Head Start
Projects Under Consideration

AgriLife Rainwater Harvesting Project
Committee members: Lori Merlino, Kathy & Walt Henderson

Southwestern University and NPSOT Greenhouse &
Garden Area Collaboration
Chair: Cindy Stone

Children’s House Guide – Community Montessori School
Chairs: Cathy Downs and Cindy Stone
Restoration of prairie and creation of wildlife gardens close
to the school
Monarch Tagging Clinic on October 13, 2015