



NPSOT News

North Central Texas

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter
Volume 21, Number 5, June 2009

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The President's Corner Dawn Hancock

Greetings, members of the North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. I will address two important topics in this column. They are strategic planning for our chapter and the 2010 Symposium of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

The North Central Chapter has over 80 members. That makes our chapter one of the largest in the state. Are we as effective as our size implies that we should be in fulfilling the mission of NPSOT? How would our chapter go about being more effective? A strategic planning committee will address these questions, and one has been formed. The committee members are Sandy Balch, Gailon Hardin, Sandra Johnson, Alice Moffitt, and Helena van Heiningen. This committee's work is about to begin. As a member of the chapter, think about the NPSOT mission statement and then propose responses to the mission that our chapter can undertake. With a plan to guide the chapter, we will help conserve and utilize native Texas plants and their habitats more effectively.

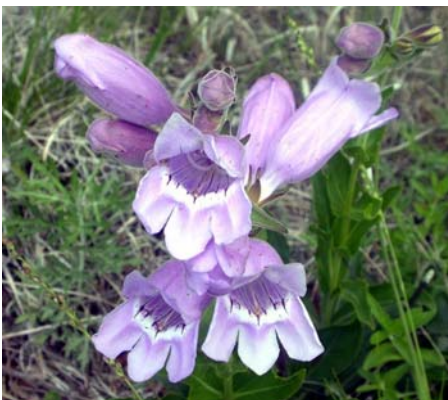
The 2010 Native Plant Society of Texas Symposium will be right in our backyard in Denton. Trinity Forks Chapter takes the lead in planning the symposium for NPSOT's thirtieth anniversary, and they have chosen as the theme *Saving Texas, One Landscape at a Time*. However, one chapter certainly cannot do everything that has to be done to pull off a symposium. North Central Chapter is part of the Education Committee, and our job is to help find speakers, workshops and field trips for participants. This symposium will target a larger audience than the membership of NPSOT, including

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote the conservation, research, and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach, and example.

Another native beauty. See page 2.



Visit us at
ncnpsot.org and
txnativeplants.org

June meeting

Thursday, June 4, 7:00 pm
Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center, Orchid Room

Program: Sue Short, Henrietta Creek Orchard: *Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs, and Honey.*

Plant of the Month Josephine Keeney

Prairie foxglove, *Penstemon cobaea*



The plant serves a larval host for the Dotted checkerspot butterfly (*Poladryas minuta*).

Prairie foxglove may go dormant during the summer. The stems should be cut back after flowering, or wait for the seeds to ripen.

It likes to grow in sun to part-shade and doesn't require much water.

This lovely springtime wildflower adorns rolling hills, blackland prairies and edges of woods across Texas all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. It is also a prevalent plant at Tandy Hills Preserve.

Prairie foxglove is about 18 inches tall and very hardy. The tubular flowers vary from light to dark pink and attract bees, butterflies, and moths.

Find more native plant information at www.texasstar.org, a forum for Texas gardeners dedicated to the cultivation and propagation of Texas native plants.



NPSOT at Prairie Fest



Despite the wind, we had a good showing at Prairie Fest, with lots of volunteers, a great location, and many opportunities for outreach.



The President's Corner

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landscapers, growers, farmers, ranchers, teachers, homeowners' associations, and neighborhood associations. So, here is what the Education Committee needs from members: your suggestions for speakers, places to take field trips, and ideas for workshops. If you have heard or know of a good speaker who is especially knowledgeable about native Texas plants, pass those names on to Cathy Lustgarten of Trinity Forks Chapter.

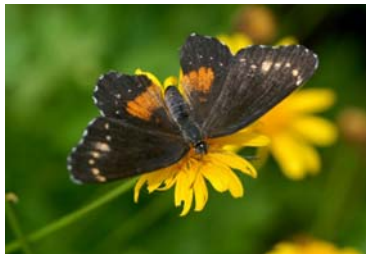
This is an exciting time for NPSOT as everywhere one turns, the need to conserve both our plant heritage and water is being talked about. The 2010 symposium will offer answers to both these needs.

Butterflies Joann Karges

Bordered patch, Chlosyne lacinia

This is a yellow-orange and black butterfly, sometimes more yellow-orange (or orange) than black, sometimes more black than orange. Actually the coloration has amounted to ranking the forms into subspecies. The ones here are usually adjatrix (which does not mean a whole lot to anyone but a confirmed lepidopterist) and almost without exception will have the broad bands (the patches) of orange across the wings, always bordered with black, sprinkled with white dots. The colors are vibrant, even the velvety black of wings and body.

The butterfly comes readily to flowers, especially the orange and yellow ones, like sunflowers and gaillardia where it spreads its 2" wing-span across the flower as it sips nectar. There is another reason why this butterfly likes the composites (Asteraceae); members of this family are obligate hosts for the butterfly larvae. Look under-



neath the leaves of sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) or cowpen daisy (*Verbesina enceliodes*) or even common ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida texana*) to find a cluster of eggs or a little swarm of black or black-and-orange caterpillars, which will be gnawing away on the leaf. A later and larger larva will wander alone, eating leaves and stems and eventually will pupate, hanging its chrysalis on the same plant, usually under a leaf.

A word about the scientific name: *Chlosyne* (pronounced klo'-sign) comes from two Greek words and refers to the light green color of spring—or the period when the butterfly emerges after winter diapause. "*Lacinia*" sounds like a pretty girl's name but the origin is probably a Latin term for a torn garment, referring perhaps to the spots on the edges of the butterfly's wings. This butterfly is, after all, one of the "checkerspots."

Show Us Your Yard



This month, NPSOT President Dawn Hancock has sent in photos of parts of her landscape, the corner yard and hell strip. If only more of those often wasted spaces could look this wonderful! Thanks, Dawn.



Minutes of the Board Meeting

May 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Dawn Hancock.

Persons in attendance:

Dawn Hancock, Sandra Johnson, Alice Moffitt, Gailon Hardin, Sandy Baulch

ITEM: Dawn Hancock: Designing grounds at Resource Center gym: Steve said that we will do planning and direction and not heavy work and maintenance. Lucy Harrell will help with design. We need to talk to the people at the Resource Connection. Dawn suggested at least 80% native plants. Gailon Hardin suggested 100%.

ITEM: Dawn Hancock: Strategic Planning Committee: We as a chapter are not progressing toward stated goals. We need specific goals, direction and people to fulfill these goals. A committee was started consisting of Evelyn Woodrey, Helena van Heiningen, Gailon Hardin and Sandy Baulch.

ITEM: Dawn Hancock: 2010 Symposium: Cathy Lustgarten wants us on an Education Committee. We will be responsible for speakers, workshops, field trips for target audience. She suggests subcommittees to take target

audience and then figure out speakers, etc. We will circulate a sign-up sheet and perhaps have Rozanna Francis call people.

ITEM: Gailon Hardin motioned to look into Die for name badges that the society would purchase and then have each member buy their own badge.

ITEM: John Bridges has requested \$100 for reserving Prairie Fest booths for next year. This was unanimously approved. We need to have some big signs by October.

General Meeting, May 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President Dawn Hancock.

Previous minutes from April 2009 were reviewed, corrected and approved.

Reports of Officers and Committees:

Treasurer: Gailon Hardin reported a current balance of \$7640.23

Membership: Sandy Baulch indicated that there are currently 76 members, 3 new and 8 expired memberships.

One-day events: John Bridges reported that the plant sale at Prairie Fest was not successful as a fundraiser, but very good for exposure. We were at the front entrance. We will do it again next year and hope to have four booths. We need a committee of people to design our booth.

John also indicated that so far the digiframe purchase has stagnated. He is still looking for a 15" digiframe in the \$200 range if anyone knows of any.

Charlotte will be at Buffalo Boogie all day and needs another

person. They need to be there at 7:00 am.

NICE: Helena van Heiningen stated that the spring plant for the season is wine cup. We need to let the nurseries know that we appreciate their having natives. John Bridges will take 2009 stuff to Green Mammals.

Public Gardens:

Veterans Park: Ann Knudsen reported that Earthday was very successful. Next year it will not occur on Prairie Fest day. May 21 is "Walk on the Wildside" for 80 third graders in two simultaneous tours from 9:00 am - 12:00. They need volunteers.

Second or third week in June is "Forestry Camp" and they will need volunteers for that.

Southwest Courthouse: Gailon Hardin stated that there is a workday this Saturday, 9:00 am - 11:00 am.

Hulen Library: Evaline Woodrey indicated that not many volunteers are showing up. Dawn suggested that Rozanna Francis call for volunteers and send emails.

New Business: The state Symposium for 2010 will be in Denton. We are expected to help as part of the education committee. The theme will be "Saving One Texas Landscape at a Time." Our target groups will be not just NPSOT members, but developers, educators, gardening news, TXDOT, etc. North Central's role will be to form a committee, find speakers, workshops, fieldtrips for a particular target audience. By May 2009 they want a statement of goals.

Hester Schwarzer indicated that they had met twice last year. Dottie Woodson and Kathy Scott (BRIT) said they would help with whatever they can. We need to find out if CEU's will be available.

Sandra Johnson presented photographs of the future Resource Connection project and this was discussed.

Program: Speaker Eleanor Tuck, entomologist.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00
Meeting recorded by Alice Moffitt

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 4
7:00 pm
Fort Worth
Botanic Gardens

Sue Short:

*Fruits, Vegetables,
Herbs, and Honey*

Visit us on the Web
at
www.txnativeplants.org

Join the Native Plant Society of Texas!

Become a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Membership is open to any individual, family, or organization. Membership is renewable annually and extends for a year from the date we receive your original payment. If you wish to join, please indicate your category of membership, then clip and mail this application with the appropriate remittance to:

Native Plant Society of Texas
PO Box 3017, Fredricksburg, TX 78624
830-997-9272

_____ Student	\$15	_____ Couple/Family	\$40
_____ Senior Individual		_____ Group	\$50
_____ (65+)	\$20	_____ Patron	\$100
_____ Senior Couple		_____ Benefactor	\$250
_____ (one 65+)	\$30	_____ Supporting	\$500
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**The North Central Texas
NPSOT News**

is a monthly publication of the North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

For changes of address or information about contributing to the newsletter, please contact the newsletter editor.

The deadline for submitting articles for inclusion the newsletter is the 15th of every preceding month.

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