

September 2008 Newsletter

Native Plant Society of Texas - South Texas Chapter



Sept. 4th – Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker – Shelly D. Maher

Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Drive, Corpus Christi.

Shelly finally finished up her thesis in August on two native plants, “A Germination Study of *Hilaria belangeri* and a Reproductive System Study of *Echeandia texensis*.” Shelly will present the results of her seed germination study on three populations of common curlymesquite grass and the unusual results found while studying Lila de los Lomas.

ALSO - Ann is bringing to the September meeting booklets from the 1994 NPSOT Symposium which was held in Corpus Christi. Members may take as many booklets as they wish. All leftovers will be placed into Ann’s recycle bin. If you would like a copy and cannot make the meeting, please call Ann at 361-991-8063.

Chapter Updates

Our Next Meeting is October 2nd
Forrest Smith of South Texas Natives

Ann is Leaving Us Soon

Dear Members of the South Texas Chapter of NPSOT,

A little over three years ago I agreed to be the president of our chapter of NPSOT. I decided recently that I needed to return to Central Texas to be closer to my children, grandchildren, siblings and cousins. I will greatly miss Corpus Christi, the surrounding areas, and all my friends from this region.

When I accepted the position of president, it was with the understanding that I knew very little about native plants. With the help of our knowledgeable members, I have learned much, but I feel that I am still a novice in that field. When I complete my move, I will be joining a chapter in the New Braunfels area. Until I sell my two houses, you will continue to see me at meetings. My goal is to be moved by the end of October. I hope to see you all at our September meeting. – Ann

By the way... we still need a volunteer to take Ann’s place as chapter president... Any takers???

Nominations for the 2008 NPSOT Awards

Our South Texas Chapter has made two nominations for awards at the upcoming NPSOT Symposium. We nominated *Plants of the Texas Coastal Bend* and authors Roy L. Lehman, Ruth O’Brien and Tammy White for the Donovan Stewart Correll Memorial Award. We also nominated the *Restoration Manual for Native Habitats of South Texas*, by South Texas Natives, for the Carroll Abbott Memorial Award.

A big thank you to Carolyn Chancellor for organizing, writing, and sending in the nominations!!!

Hummer/Bird Celebration in Rockport on Sept. 11-14

Ernie Edmundson would like to invite everyone to the Hummer/Bird Celebration. There is a great line-up of speakers talking about native plants and creation of habitat. Alice Hempel is one of the speakers on Sunday. Glenn Olsen, past president of NPSOT and Bill Lindemann, also past president of NPSOT are both speakers. Two NPSOT members have their homes on the Hummer Home tour. The Master Naturalists will have a plant booth of strictly native plants for our area. The complete program is available online (<http://www.rockporthummingbird.com>).

Renewed Memberships

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

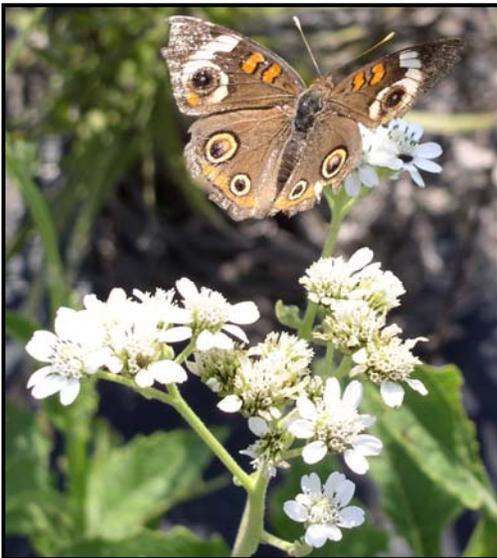
Fred Allon of Corpus Christi
Carolyn Chancellor of Corpus Christi
James Craven of Refugio
Dawn Dickson of Corpus Christi
Kay Dillingham of Port Lavaca
Ernie Edmundson of Rockport
Rebecca Elzner of Corpus Christi
T.J. and Frankie Fox of Rockport
John Fucik of Port Aransas
James Gill of Corpus Christi
June Herbst of Corpus Christi
Ann Hoch of Corpus Christi
Marsha and Harry Krenek of Rockport
Naomi Linzer of Corpus Christi
Paula Maywald of Kingsville
Paul and Mary Meredith of Victoria
Christina Mild of Harlingen
Margaret and Bill Moser of Beeville
Ruth O’Brien of Corpus Christi
Deborah Overath of Corpus Christi
Don and Rhoda Poenisch of Ingleside
Andrea Story of Edroy
Karen Sutton of Beeville
Anne Williams of Corpus Christi
Marjorie Wohlschlag of Port Aransas
Vernon Wuensche of Corpus Christi

2008 Texas Plant Conservation Conference

The conference is scheduled for September 17-20 and will be held at the Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi campus. This year’s conference will highlight plant conservation work in South Texas and the Coastal Bend. Speakers will discuss their work with Texas rare plants and update participants on the status of their projects. Keynote speakers include Bruce Hungate, Director, National Institute for Climatic Change Research, Western Region, Northern Arizona University, and Dr. Tom Shirley, Professor of Life Sciences and Endowed Chair for Biodiversity and Conservation Science at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi. Other speakers include Dr. Ruth O’Brien, Dr. Glafiro Alanis, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Dr. David Grise, Visiting Professor, Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi, and Robyn Cobb, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Please register by Friday, September 5, 2008 as registration fees will increase afterwards. According to Flo Oxley, NPSOT members get the volunteer rate. See (<http://www.wildflower.org/tpcc/>) for more information and registration form or contact Flo Oxley, Program Coordinator at 512/292-4200 ext. 160 oxley@wildflower.org

Do You Know Your Natives???? Contributed by: USDA-NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center



Frostweed (*Verbesina microptera*), also known as capitana, is a common, native, cool-season, perennial forb. It is easily recognized by its winged stems. An attractive member of the sunflower family (Asteraceae), it grows approximately 1.2 m tall blooming from September to November (Jones, 1982). Its bright white flowers, which attract numerous butterflies, and hardiness in dry conditions



make it an attractive plant for landscape use. In the field, it is often browsed by deer and cattle (Everitt, Drawe, and Lonard, 1999). It is abundant in loamy soil in parts of Texas and north eastern Mexico. In Texas, it is found along the southern portion of the Edwards Plateau, the Rio Grande Plains, and less frequently in the southern portions of the east and south east regions of Texas (Correll and Johnston, 1996).



The PMC is working on releasing a native ecotype from South Texas for the conservation practices of 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover, 562 Recreation Area Improvement, and 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat. However, more collections are needed to represent the entire range of this species in South Texas. If you find a population of frostweed in South Texas, the PMC would appreciate a seed collection.

Info Sources: *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas* - Correll and Johnston; *Plants of the Texas Coastal Bend* - Lehman, O’Brien, & White; *Field Guide to the Broad-Leaved Herbaceous Plants of South Texas* – Everitt, Drawe, & Lonard; and research performed at the PMC.



Upcoming Events (361) 852-2100 www.ccbotanicalgardens.org

- **Blacklock’s Beginning Bird ID Series** - beginning September 8 offers twelve class sessions, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays, plus six field trips, and continues through December 6. Tuition is \$150 for STBGNC members, \$175 non-members; and must be prepaid by September 4. Call for registration.
- **“Adding Splashes to your Landscape”** seminar from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, September 13. Members of the Coastal Bend Water Garden Club will share their knowledge about creating and maintaining water features that relax and subliminally cool your garden’s guests with pleasant splashing, trickling, or bubbling sounds of moving water. Workshop cost is \$6, \$3.50 Gardens & Nature Center members. Call for reservations.

- **Hummingbird seminar**, 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, September 20. Learn what plants and feeders will attract our tiniest feathered Winter Texans to your yard, not only in the fall, but well into our mild winters. TPWD biologist Brent Ortigo will also give a tour of the Hummingbird Garden. Seminar fees are \$6, \$3.50 members; Call for reservations.
- **Moonlight in the Gardens** – Saturday October 11th is a casual evening fundraiser, beginning at 7 p.m. Under a nearly full moon, guests will enjoy multiple food and music venues, special garden lighting effects, star and moon-gazing with telescopes, and a Starlight Silent Auction. Tickets are \$50 members, \$60 non-members. Tickets which include an exclusive 6 – 7 p.m. SUNSET HOST PARTY are \$75 each. Sponsor opportunities are available. Call for more information.
- **Herb Day** - Saturday, October 18. Seminars will be presented on the hour, from 9 a.m. through 1 p.m. Master Gardener Linda Collins and other members of the Rockport Herb & Rose Study Group, will lecture on various herb topics, featuring an 11 a.m. cooking demonstration by Cheryl's on the Bay. Cindy Meredith of the Herb Cottage in Hallettsville, will have potted herbs available for purchase. General Admission Only. No class fees, members free! Please call for seminar reservations.
- **EarthKind gardening** methods with new composting alternatives will be taught in a seminar, from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, October 25. Master Gardener and EarthKind Gardening specialist Bob Becquet will discuss making gardens more "earth-kind" with greener options for landscape maintenance. Seminar fee is \$6, \$3.50 members. Call for reservations.

2008 Dates to Save for the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation (www.baysfoundation.org) 361-882-3439

- **Saturday, August 2, Suter Park Workout**, 7:30 - 9:30am - Help spread mulch, water, prune and clean up this special wildlife refuge. Bring garden tools, work gloves and bug spray if you have them. At the intersection of Ennis Joslin and Nile Drive, Corpus Christi.
- **Monday, September 8, Coastal Issues Forum**. 6pm at TAMUCC - Carlos F. Truan Natural Resource Center. Free and Open to the Public - Topic to be announced.
- **Saturday September 27 and Sunday September 28**, 12pm-6pm - Join or visit CBBF in the **Adventure Bay Tent** at BAYFEST. If you have an ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY message to share join us in Adventure Bay, the Environmental Tent. Free Registration - thanks to Port Industries and the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program.
- **Thursday, November 6, 6th Annual Conservation & Environmental Stewardship Awards Program**. Nomination forms available in early August - help us recognize our local environmental heroes! Visit www.baysfoundation.org.

NPSOT Calendar Fall 2007- Spring 2008

- **Sept. 4th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Shelly D. Maher – Thesis work on two native plants
- **Sept. 17-20th** – 2008 Texas Plant Conservation Conference- in Corpus Christi this year
- **Oct. 2nd** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Forrest Smith of *South Texas Natives*
- **Oct. 16th - 19th** – NPSOT Symposium in Beaumont
- **Nov. 6th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – "Native Dave" and Christy Ilfrey - "Sustainable Landscapes for Texas"
- **Dec. 4th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **Jan. – meeting in December and not January this year**
- **Feb. 5th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **March 5th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **April 2nd** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **May 7th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.

Chapter Contacts

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State Web Site www.npsot.org