

useful wild plants, inc.

# Update

Vol. 13, No. 4  
Winter 2013

## UWP news

### AND THE WINNER IS!

The first Typo Tracker reporting in was Ellie White of Campbell, Texas. The complete list will be announced in the Spring 2014 Update. Thus Miss Smartyplants hereby declares that everyone who participated in the Typo Tracker contest is an official UWP Typo Tracker.

### NOW THAT YOU ARE A TYPO TRACKER...

So what does that mean? It means that now that you have exhibited an ability to see mistakes and point them out, you likely will be pressed into service as an official UWP Proofreader for the galleys of Volume 4 of *Useful Wild Plants...* and then the text of Volume 5. The critical acclaim that the first three volumes have enjoyed is because of the picky proofreaders who savage the text before the manuscript goes to press. We have some great proofreaders, and they invite more people to join the gladiatorial team wielding red pencils in the war against typos. The more eyes on the text the better. Welcome to the team!

### WWW.USEFULWILDPLANTS.ORG IS...

temporarily off line pending a total refurbishment. It had gotten stale and was as musty as a load of laundry left too

long in the washing machine in the summer. It will reappear once it has been redone.

### LOS PEPES HERE WE COME!

More "chicken soup for the droll" as we mentioned in a recent UWP Update. And that's the delicious chicken tortilla soup at Los Pepes a few doors down from UWP World Headquarters. One of Austin's elected officials, Kathie Tovo of the Austin City Council, visited UWP recently to learn more about the Useful Wild Plants Project (Los Pepes did a yummy vegetarian soup for Councilmember Tovo). Kathie asked good questions about the Useful Wild Plants Project, just as she does from the dais about issues facing the city. Later that month Tom and Helga Mabry stopped by to discuss their many years of research on the chemistry of plants. Tom is professor emeritus at The University of Texas at Austin.

UWP member Randy Smith of Cuero, Texas, set up a couple of speaking engagements on behalf of UWP. UWP founder and president Scooter Cheatham was the featured speaker at the Dewitt County Farm Bureau's annual meeting in

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Kathie Tovo of the Austin City Council get the Useful Wild Plants Project tour at UWP

# THANK YOU!

## for your support in 2013

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### Foundation Support

Travis A. Mathis and the Brown Foundation, Inc. • A foundation that prefers to remain anonymous

### New and Renewing Members

Mike and Patsy Anderson and Anderson Landscape • Ricky P. Anderson, Jr. • Bob Atkinson and Jerre Heaton • Niccolo R. Barbaro and Susan Emerson Moffat • Charles Bergstrom • Sylvia Betts in memory of Hank Ellison • David and Sandra Booth • Mark R. Brown • Susan B. Buckley • Bobby Campbell • James M. Campbell • Wilda Campbell • Kathleen and Jim Crabtree • Lee De La Houssaye • Claire DeYoung • Cathy Downs • Spencer English • Richard and Marcela Faidley • John Fairey • Betsy A. Farris • Hugh Fitzsimons • Patsy Goebel • John L. Gower • Jo Ann Grantham • Sherry Greenberg and Mike Shefman in memory of Mike Lyday • Marquis Gordon • James P. S. Griffith, Jr. • Rachel Hagan • Rita Hall • Donny Hamilton • Billie Hanke • Stuart R. Herrmann • Dudley Houghton • Cora Lee Hughes • William Jeffers and Art from the Street in memory of Hank Ellison • Lola Jennings • Richard A. Kallerman • Andrew and Anita Keese • Cynthia F. Leigh & Ishmael Soto • Amber Koszuta and Joseph McCarty • Renvia Lander • Pier W. Larsen • Travis Latham • Marilyn Latting • Ruth Leibowitz • Patricia A. Lewis • Mary Ley • Richard Lucas • Aaron Kim Ludeke • Kevin C. Magavern • Jean Allen Mather • John W. Matheson • Judy McGray • Margery McKee • Jerri McLerran • Cavan Merski • Yim and Walter Meyer • Jill Nokes • Colette O'Sullivan • Paul Primrose • Sharon Roos • Randy Smith • Richard and Susan Stark • Dena Stoner and Monte Rhodes • Robert A. Taylor • C. Mick Terry • Madeleine Villatoro • Matt and Barb Wall • Cathy Weaver • Gordon White • Mark Woods • Richard Worthington • Julie Yarsa

### Books and Other Publications

Logan McNatt • Jo Overton • Tom Polinard • Steve Speir • Richard Worthington

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September. While the focus of DCFB is traditional ranching, farming, and agriculture, the members were interested in hearing about how native plant species will be playing a role in the agriculture of the future as we work to bring new crops along that are derived from the indigenous flora. Scooter also spoke to the Lions Club of Cuero, a lively group that asked lots of pithy questions. Afterwards, he toured the incipient pharmacy history museum of Cuero with founder Joe Reuss.

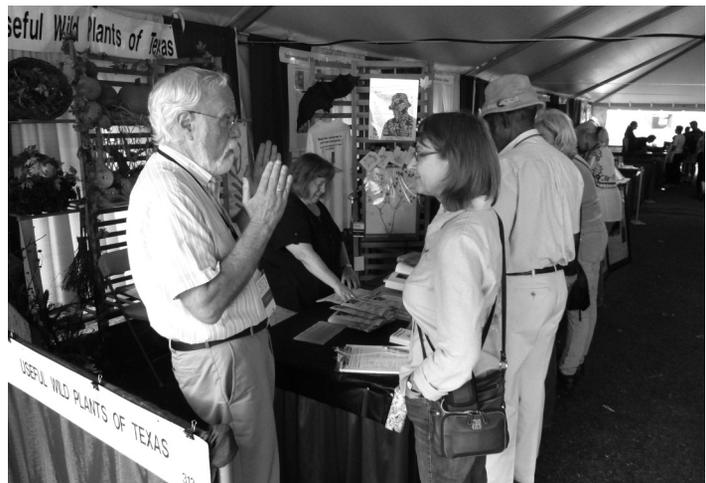
This year the Garden Club of Houston held their 71st annual Bulb and Plant Mart (we started at the 49th), their annual fundraiser for a variety of civic projects. And as has become tradition, we (Scooter Cheatham and Lynn Mar-

shall) were at the Native Tree Booth, sending native trees off to new homes. Shortly thereafter, the 19th Annual Texas Book Festival took place, and as usual, UWP was there too. This state sure does love its plants and its books.

THE ELLISON FAMILY AND UWP WOULD LIKE TO THANK WILLIAM JEFFERS OF ART FROM THE STREET AND SYLVIA BETTS FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OF HANK ELLISON.



Scooter Cheatham, Susan Garwood, and Karen Ytterberg at the Native Trees Booth at the Houston Garden Club's 2013 Bulb and Plant Mart



Dr. Stan Roux, UWP VP, talks to visitors at Texas Book Festival 2013

# COUNTDOWN

A review by Steve Speir

Every Texan has felt the impact of an on-going population boom that has seen our state's numbers surge from 20.8 million in 2000 to 26.05 million in 2013 — a 25% increase in little more than a decade.

Native Texans have seen thousands of acres of prime farm land replaced by subdivisions and shopping centers ringed by franchises and storage sheds and all linked by toll roads to create a landscape of urban sprawl so similar that it's now hard to tell when you pass from one suburb to another. In recent years a prolonged drought has added a new phrase to the Texas vocabulary. "Water rationing" has become the reality, as we've seen our lakes dry up and springs and ponds vanish. But the growth surge continues. The state population is expected to top 30 million by 2035, a 15.5% increase from today. Fueled by the dominant political view that a strong economy depends on constant expansion and an ever-growing population, there appears to be no end in sight to this cycle.

Alan Weisman's new book *Countdown* dares to examine the impact of rapid population growth on world resources. He believes we are running out of time to confront the crisis of too many people and too few resources. After meeting with scientists and religious leaders in 21 countries, Weisman is convinced the current rate of population growth is completely unsustainable. Now at 7 billion, we're adding a million people to the planet every four days — well on the way to 10 billion by the end of the century. In his view the demand for clean water, electricity, and food could well lead to a crash that could be fatal to the entire species. He contends we will either decide to manage our own numbers or nature will do it for us in the form of famine, thirst, climate chaos, disease, crashing eco systems and regional wars over dwindling resources that will finally cut us down to a sustainable size. He offers examples of people throughout the world who are well aware of this looming crisis and who are pursuing myriad strategies to reduce population growth.

Weisman concludes that our best bet to control population growth is to empower women through education and by support for increased funding for voluntary state funded birth

control and contraception for men and women. In every country where women have been given access to education — from Japan to Iran to Cuba to Mexico — birth rates have fallen dramatically. Weisman pulls no punches. He acknowledges that family planning can't solve everything, but that it may be our only chance to work toward an "optimum population" — the number of humans who can enjoy a standard of living that the majority of us would find acceptable. He says this will also require industrial nations to become more "sharing, environmentally astute, low carbon substance users" and to move away from fossil fuels as soon as possible.

Weisman's travels across our increasingly crowded planet revealed this: "No matter where people are from, or whatever age or politics or faith, everyone remembers a place where they used to go to escape the clamor and congestion of their lives. A place not too far away, where they could hike, or picnic, or ride a dirt bike. Where they could watch birds — or if they like to hunt, kill birds. Where they could hug trees or cut them for firewood, or just fall asleep beneath one. But now, that favorite place is gone, vanished beneath strip malls or industrial parks or condos. Everyone remembers a world that was better. Less crowded. Where they felt freer."

It's a feeling every Texan I know can identify with.

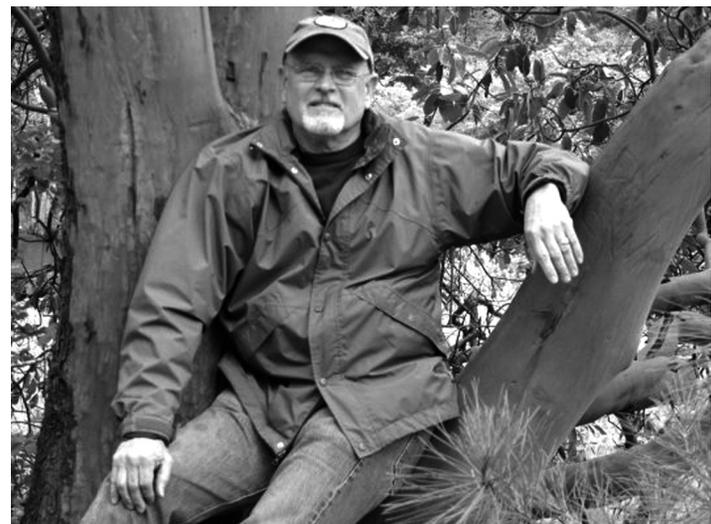
UWP board of trustees member Steve Speir has been in the thick of Texas politics for several decades.

Alan Weisman spoke to a rapt audience in October at the Texas Book Festival and at Book People, an independent bookstore that provides a place for authors and their rabid readers to mix and mingle dozens of times a year.



## HANK ELLISON

Hank Ellison, Weedfeeder extraordinaire and longtime volunteer at Useful Wild Plants, left us on September 12, 2013. Hank gave himself over passionately to anything he took on. He grew rare native plants from seeds we gave him, and, thanks to his unusually green thumb, photos of those plants will appear in many volumes of *Useful Wild Plants... A Master Framer*, Hank was one of the first to receive CPF certification from the Professional Picture Framing Association. He and his wife Jane founded Balcones Frame in 1982 and framed the many watercolors and photographs on display at UWP. Hank is going to be missed around here.



Hank Ellison in Big Bend

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**Thanks to all who entered  
the Typo Tracker contest.  
The winners will be  
announced in the 2014  
Spring Update.**

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#### UWP's Mission

To promote the understanding, appreciation, stewardship, and sustainable use of wild plants through programs of conservation, education, research, publication, and entrepreneurship.

#### Focus

To create and maintain a comprehensive knowledge and information base, a platform from which to launch further research on native plants. This vast body of knowledge will be of service to scientists, horticulturists, ecologists, teachers, park rangers, hobbyists, and others, and ultimately will be accessible in several forms, including the multi-volume encyclopedia, an interactive database, CD-ROM, and films. This is the most complete economic botany work produced for any region in the world.

#### Projects and Programs

- *The Useful Wild Plants of Texas, the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains, and Northern Mexico*, a multi-volume work
- The Alluse Database
- Independent Studies with UWP
- The "Save the Human Libraries" project to preserve vanishing knowledge through video- and audio-taped interviews
- "Landmark Landscapers" project to interview horticulturists and naturalists who are bringing the best of the natives to the market for use in landscaping
- "Plug Into Your Planet," to help students evaluate their impact on the planet through their choice of possessions

#### Join UWP and help save the "rainforest" in your own backyard.

#### Annual Membership

- Sustaining (\$100)
- Family/Household (\$50)
- Individual (\$25)

#### Sponsorship

- I'll Sponsor a Species in Volume 4! (\$1000)
- I'll be a Seed Sponsor in Volume 4! (\$500)

#### Contributions

I'd like to make a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

in honor of / in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

To become a member or to otherwise contribute, fill in the blanks and mail this form or an approximation thereof to 2612 Sweeney Lane, Austin, TX 78723.

#### Thanks!

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