

NORTH TEXAS PLANT CONSERVATION ALLIANCE: GOALS, 2010 PROJECT, AND FUTURE PROJECTS

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In September of 2009, during the Texas Plant Conservation Conference (TPCC) at Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, the Texas Plant Conservation Alliance (TPCA) met to discuss the possibility of dividing into geographic units that would partner with other regional plant conservation groups to improve plant conservation in Texas. The TPCA formed alliances in north, south, east, and west Texas. The North Texas Plant Conservation Alliance (NTPCA) that resulted from this discussion is led by Allan Nelson, curator of the herbarium at Tarleton State University (TSU) and the group met on February 13, 2010 at TSU. Regional partners included the North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NCCNPSOT) and the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge (FWNCR). The group decided to work on goals related to what they call the 3R's of conservation in plants. Volunteers will be involved in projects related to rare plants, restoration with native plants, and recording distributions of introduced plants in North Texas. In the spring of 2010, the NTPCA's first project involved collaboration with Bob O'Kennon representing the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) to work on a rare endemic in Texas, *Dalea reverchonii*. For this project, the group was joined by additional volunteers from BRIT, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Laredo Community College. New sites for the rare endemic were assessed and an ecological study regarding the habitat of Reverchon Dalea was completed. In addition to the Reverchon dalea project, three NTPCA volunteers received training on Texas invasive plants and the group has been invited to participate in projects associated with the FWNCR.