



Photo of Janet Smith courtesy of the Dallas Morning News, taken by Stewart Cohen.

Janet is a recovering plantaholic who considers the Master Gardener, Master Naturalist and native plant training as her 12-step program. She specializes in creating attractive landscapes that conserve natural resources and money; are good for the local ecology; and attract bees, butterflies, and birds. She loves helping others discover the thrill of having their own nature channel out their windows.

Janet's love of gardening didn't start until after she took early retirement and decided to spruce up her dismal landscape. The next year she took the Master Gardening training and learned how to actually grow and care for plants. She embraced the concept of WaterWise Earth-Kind Gardening in her landscape and as a speaker. A few years later she became a Master Naturalist and joined the Native Plant Society of Texas where she coordinated their very active Native Landscape Certification Program.

Today, Janet speaks on numerous topics, including native gardening, butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees. She is a dedicated volunteer with over 6000 hours of Master Gardener service and 1500 hours of Master Naturalist service. Janet was the Dallas County Master Gardener Speaker of the Year in both 2008 and 2023 and the Texas Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year in 2010. Janet received a Lifetime Achievement Award from President Obama in recognition of her volunteer work.

In her presentation "Year Round Blooms with Native Perennials," Janet will show you how to have an interesting landscape all year round by using native plant perennials instead of having to spend time and money planting for each season. Janet will share many native perennials with you; their sun and water requirements; and other tips for planting. She will also discuss the different wildlife that benefits from these native plants.