



# TORCH VIII Agenda

**Field Trip, TORCH Business Meeting, and iDigBio Workshop**  
 Friday 23 - Saturday 24 May 2014, Sul Ross State University, Alpine TX

## Thursday 22 May

### **Field trip participants:**

afternoon through evening Arrive at Sul Ross, Fletcher Hall dorm check-in; dinner on your own (see meals & events page for recommendations)

## Friday 23 May: Field Trip (separate registration) and TORCH Business Meeting

### **Field trip participants:**

7:00 am – 7:30 am Breakfast on your own; acquire a bag lunch on your own (see meals & events page for recommendations)

7:45 am Carpool from Fletcher Hall to Livermore Ranch (50 mi.; see field trip details page)

9:00 am SHARP Meet at McDannald Ranch gate (see field trip details page)

9:30 am – 10:00 am Presentation by owner of Livermore Ranch

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Botanizing

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm Lunch (bring one!)

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Botanizing

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Return to Fletcher Hall

### **Non-field trip participants:**

afternoon through evening Arrive at Sul Ross University, Fletcher Hall dorm check-in; lunch on your own (see meals & events page for recommendations)

### **Everyone:**

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Siesta/ free time / press your plants

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Social hour (BYOB), Kokernot Lodge on Sul Ross campus

6:00 pm – 6:30 pm TORCH business meeting, Warnock Science Building 201

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm Special presentation to TORCH by Cullen Hanks & Jason Singhurst, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Warnock Science Building 201

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Group dinner reservation for registrants at La Trattoria (self-pay; requires registration for a reservation; see meals & events page)

## Saturday 24 May: iDigBio Workshop (separate registration; Warnock Science Building 201)

### **Non-workshop participants:**

8:00 am – 11:00 am Check out of Fletcher Hall; breakfast on your own; OR you are welcome to stay until Sunday and rejoin the group Saturday evening

### **Workshop participants:**

8:00 am – 9:00 am Continental breakfast provided

9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  
 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

iDigBio Workshop part I (see workshop details page)  
 Lunch provided  
 iDigBio Workshop part II (see workshop details page)

**Everyone:**

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm  
 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Social time at Harry's Tinaja (self-pay; see meals & events page)  
 Group dinner provided for registrants at Los Jalapeños (included in workshop registration cost, or in dinner-only registration option; see meals & events page)

9:00 pm

For those not ready to retire, perhaps a carpool out to Marfa to see the mysterious lights? (see meals & events page)

**Sunday 25 May:**

7:00 am – 11:00 am

Check out of Fletcher Hall; breakfast on your own; participants depart

## Sul Ross State University & Alpine, Texas

### Alpine, Texas

High desert country, mountain ranges and Rio Grande canyons are only a few of the natural wonders that make Alpine, in Brewster County, such a popular destination. Alpine is situated at the edge of the great Chihuahuan desert between [Big Bend National Park](#) and the Davis Mountains. Big Bend National Park, historic Fort Davis, the Marfa mystery lights, and McDonald Observatory set high in the Davis Mountains are a few popular destinations within a two-hour drive. Alpine is described as cold semi-arid steppe, with average May temperatures of 85 F-55 F. The elevation is almost 4500 feet ASL. Days in late May are likely to be warm and sunny, and nights are likely to be slightly chilly and clear.

We expect most TORCHers will drive to Alpine. The nearest commercial airport is in Midland-Odessa, Texas (MAF airport), a 2.5-hour drive from Alpine, with car rental facilities available.

### Sul Ross:

Our host institution for TORCH VIII is Sul Ross State University (<http://www.sulross.edu/>), with Martin Terry of SRSC Herbarium assisting with organization. The campus will be relatively empty during our time there. A campus map is available here:

[http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/users/docs/uc\\_srsu/campus-map.pdf](http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/users/docs/uc_srsu/campus-map.pdf).

Building 12 is the Fletcher Hall Dormitory, where we encourage our meeting participants to consider staying. The Residential Living Office (building 17, office LV 8) is the check-in site for dorm lodging. We will be meeting in the parking lot of Fletcher Hall to carpool to Livermore Ranch for the field trip Friday morning (see field trip details page). Kokernot Lodge, the site of our Friday evening BYOB social hour, is also located on campus. Fletcher Hall is next to the Warnock Science Building (building 10), where the Saturday iDigBio workshop will take place. Many of our evening drinking and dining destinations are within walking distance of Sul Ross.

### Dormitory lodging:

A block of rooms has been reserved in Fletcher Hall Dormitory for TORCH attendees. Rooms are available for check-in at noon on Thursday 22 May. We expect all check-outs to occur by noon Sunday 25 May. Each room has two long-twin beds, and one bathroom is shared between every two rooms. Linens (sheets & towels) will be provided upon check-in; there is a one-time linen-cleaning fee of \$10 for each occupant. The single occupancy rate is \$30 per night per person. Those who share a room will be charged \$15 per night (please fill out your roommate request on the registration form). Dormitories are alcohol-free, however, guests of age are permitted to drink on campus outside. The campus is also tobacco-free. No candles or open flames of any sort are allowed.

**Check-in:** Go to the Residential Living Office (building 17, office LV 8) to check in between 8 am– 5 pm, Thursday or Friday, and get your room assignment and key. Please indicate if you anticipate an after-hours check-in on the registration form. There are numbers on the door of the office that can be called for after-hours check in (432-294-0464 & 432-294-0520). We will try to arrange easier alternative methods for this, TBD.

**Check-out:** Drop the keys and necessary paperwork in the locked drop box at the front door of the Residential Living Office.

**Other lodging options:** available at <http://visitalpinetx.com/hotels-lodging/>

## TORCH field trip to Livermore Ranch: Friday 23 May, 2014

Livermore Ranch is a large, privately-owned property that has been called “the crown jewel of the Davis Mountains, and “the last of the great places.” The Davis Mountains are described in a Texas Monthly article thusly: *“The animals and plants living above the five-thousand-foot elevation in the Davis Mountains are found nowhere else but in other sky islands surrounded by desert, such as the Chiricahuas in southeast Arizona and the Mimbres range in southwestern New Mexico. One thousand rare or endangered species are thought to thrive in this specialized environment...”* TORCH member Will Godwin has arranged our group special access to this property. <http://www.livermoreranchtx.com/>

**This fieldtrip is open to all but requires registration.** There is no fee to attend. Those who register for the field trip should plan to arrive in Alpine Thursday afternoon or evening (May 22) and spend the night, as we will be meeting in the parking lot of Sul Ross dormitory Fletcher Hall at 7:30 am Friday. Bring your own sack lunch and drinks. We will depart at 7:45 am. Participants will be carpooling in high-clearance vehicles only (so please bring one if you have one), and if you’d like to help keep our lunches & drinks cool it would be wonderful for each vehicle to have a cooler with some ice (so please bring one if you have one). Register by the deadline and we will coordinate carpooling in appropriate vehicles.

It’s just over 50 miles from Sul Ross to the McDannald Ranch gate (directions below) where we will all be meeting at 9 am sharp. We will go in the gate together at 9:15 and not come back to get you. We will go through two other ranches on our way to the Livermore Ranch gate. There will be no plant collecting until we are through the McDannald and Valentine Ranches. We will be using private gate codes to pass through these ranches. **Due to the complicated logistics of access, we will go in and out together, so don’t be late, and don’t plan to leave early.**

Collecting of herbarium specimens at Livermore Ranch is encouraged, provided you create a duplicate set for the landowner to be deposited at a herbarium of his choosing. If you collect, please be prepared to contribute to a plant species list for the courteous landowner who is allowing us access. Anyone who plans to collect should bring their own equipment.

On arrival at Livermore Ranch headquarters we will receive a brief presentation/orientation from the owner. We should have about 3 hours of botanizing, with a break for lunch. Botanists have a tendency to linger, but if we are to get up to the ponderosa pine and aspens we will have to move uphill quickly and then botanize on the way down. We will leave around 2 pm and return to Sul Ross around 3 pm., where you will have a break to press plants or rest before our social time begins at 5pm.

### Directions:

From Alpine take **118 North** to Fort Davis and travel 22.7 mi.

As you enter Fort Davis take **17 South/ State St** and travel 2.3 mi.

Turn right onto **166 North/West** and travel 23.3 mi.

Pass **Hwy 505 junction** and **continue on 166** for 200 meters.

Meet at 9 am at **the gate for the McDannald Ranch**, which according to Google is called Kelly Ranch Road. We will go in together at 9:15.

Paste this Google maps link into a browser to see the recommended route from Sul Ross to our meeting point:

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Sul+Ross+State+University,+Alpine,+TX+79832/Kelly+Ranch+Rd,+Fort+Davis,+TX+79734/@30.5230182,-103.9613366,10z/am=t/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x86efda08b365e39f:0x4df03ce59e839f80!2m2!1d-103.650019!2d30.363443!1m5!1m1!1s0x86ef9e0e68744639:0x165f01ed35bab913!2m2!1d-104.2700464!2d30.5530476>

Or use these coordinates to map the meeting point (McDannald Ranch gate on Hwy 166):  
**30.551938, -104.273250**

### What to bring:

A high-clearance vehicle if you have one – cars can't make the trip through the ranch

A big cooler with ice, to share, so we can divide lunches & drinks and keep them cool

A map / GPS for the drive

Cell phone numbers: Amanda Neill 682-561-6738; Will Godwin (organizer): 936-556-2289

Sturdy shoes or boots – we will be climbing rocky slopes and keeping an eye out for rattlesnakes!

Hat/ sunglasses/ sunscreen

Day pack/backpack to carry your lunch, water, etc.

Water bottle (we will have a cooler with iced water for refills) and any other desired drinks (no glass)

Collecting equipment & camera

Your own lunch and any desired snacks! (see meals & events page for recommendations)

### Additional and important information (provided by Will Godwin):

Merrill Canyon was the hide-out for Victorio and his Mescalero Apaches. It has relatively undisturbed remains of buffalo soldier campgrounds. You are highly privileged to be able to botanize freely there. So don't mess it up. In Nuttall's day the Mescalero Apaches would have killed you in a creative way. By the 1920s, the land belonged to private ranching families who allowed little access to biologists. By the 1990s, the Davis Mts. Trans Pecos Heritage Association made access to biologists impossible. Today the majority of the high country around Mount Livermore is controlled by the Texas Nature Conservancy. We leave it to you to speculate upon who would be the worst captor... Victorio, cattle ranchers with a rope, attorneys representing the DMTPHA, or the Nature Conservancy. At any rate you are beneficiary of a kind invitation to collect from the owner of the west slope of Mount Livermore. Let's take full advantage of the opportunity and be nice. **Pick up no artifacts!**

- Texas Monthly article about ranching and conservation in the Davis Mountains:

<http://www.texasmonthly.com/story/land-i-love-0>

- PDF of natural history survey of Mount Livermore and Sawtooth Mountain from the 1970s:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/books/landscapes/publications/txu-oclc-3885618/txu-oclc-3885618.pdf>

- Book section about the Davis Mountains in *Texas Natural History: A Century of Change*:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=8Uhx5YbmOF0C&pg=PA40&lpg=PA40&dq=%22davis+Mountains%22+merrill+canyon&source=bl&ots=pIz9KupRsE&sig=USREEo92WIrL2UUm3sg8p0IM4cQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=oa4rU9q4DMnTqAGQxYG4Bw&ved=0CGQQ6AEwCQ#v=onepage&q=%22davis%20Mountains%22%20merrill%20canyon&f=false>

## Meals & Events at TORCH VIII

### Thursday 22 May:

- All meals on your own. See local restaurant options on next page.

### Friday 23 May:

- Breakfast on your own (everyone)
- Lunch on your own (for non-field trip participants)
- Field trip participants will need to bring or acquire their own lunches and any desired snacks and drinks, as we will be far from any source of these items on the field trip. See restaurant options on the next page. One good option for a sack lunch would be Subway (1002 E Holland Ave., across from Sul Ross), as they open at 7am.
- BYOB social hour for everyone from 5–6 pm on the Sul Ross campus, Kokernot Lodge (outdoors under huge cottonwood trees).
- TORCH Business Meeting from 6–6:30 pm in Warnock Science Building (WSB) Rm. 201.
- Special presentation in WSB 201 from 6:30–7 pm by Cullen Hanks (Texas Natural Diversity Database) & Jason Singhurst (State Botanist), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department:

*iNaturalist, an engaging tool for reporting botanical observations:* The Wildlife Diversity Program at Texas Parks and Wildlife has been using iNaturalist to solicit observations of plants and animals, especially Species of Greatest Conservation Need. This presentation will review how this online platform works, why it is a valuable interface for the serious naturalist, and some of the strengths and weaknesses of iNaturalist for data collection. One concern with this platform is the risk of posting the locations for sensitive species and for plants on private lands. We will review the options for geoprivacy on iNaturalist, as well as situations where it would be inappropriate. To improve the data, we are exploring strategies for highlighting priority species and data gaps. The Wildlife Diversity Program is interested in collaborating with botanical institutions in Texas, and this presentation will suggest some ideas for how we can work together to detect and potentially monitor populations of plants with high conservation value.

- Group dinner reservation for all registrants at 7:30 at La Trattoria (<http://www.latrattoriacafe.com/>), 901 E. Holland, Alpine TX 79830. 432-837-2200. Reasonably-priced café-style Italian food, pizzas, pastas, and vegetarian options, beer and wine. Please note this dinner is self-pay (separate checks) but we will have contiguous seating reserved for our group if you indicate you want a seat on the registration form.

### Saturday 24 May: iDigBio Workshop (see workshop details page for agenda)

- Breakfast and lunch on your own (for non-workshop registrants)
- Breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks in WSB 201 provided as part of workshop registration cost.
- Social time for everyone from 5:30–6:45 pm at Harry's Tinaja, 412 E Holland Ave, Alpine TX 79830. 432-837-5060 (self-pay; bring cash).
- Group dinner reservation for workshop registrants provided as part of workshop registration cost (and for those who registered for dinner-only) at 7:30 pm at Los Jalapeños

(<http://losjalapenos.homestead.com/>), 102 W. Murphy St, Alpine TX 79830. 432-837-5101.

Authentic Mexican Cuisine. Our plated dinner will include chips and salsa, salad, beans and rice, a “Mexican Plate” with a sampling of entrées, sopapillas, and tea. The restaurant is BYOB.

- Optional carpool at 9 pm to Marfa to look for the famous and mysterious “lights” or at least do some excellent stargazing. The Marfa Lights Viewing Center is 18 mi W of Alpine on Hwy 90 West/ US 67 South. ([http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g56230-d105949-Reviews-The\\_Marfa\\_Mystery\\_Lights-Marfa\\_Texas.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g56230-d105949-Reviews-The_Marfa_Mystery_Lights-Marfa_Texas.html))

### Sunday 25 May:

- Participants depart. All meals on your own.

### Restaurants in Alpine (from <http://visitalpinetx.com/food-drink/>)

#### Good option to pick up a sack lunch for the field trip (and get breakfast and coffee):

Subway. 1002 E Holland Ave., Alpine TX 79830. 432-837-2533. 7 am–10 pm, Mon-Sat. 9 am–9 pm Sun.

#### Breakfast options:

Baker’s Dozen Donuts (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bakers-Dozen-Donuts/458732300858970>): coffee, donuts, pastries, sausage rolls. 801 N. 5th St., Alpine, TX 79830. 432-837-5331. 5 am–4 pm, 7 days a week.

Plaine (<https://www.facebook.com/PlaineCoffee>): coffee, smoothies, omelets, waffles, baked goods, ice cream. 215 E. Holland Ave., Alpine, TX 79830. 432-837-5157. 7:30 am–8 pm, 7 days a week.

Magoo’s Place (<http://www.yelp.com/biz/magoos-place-alpine>): American and Mexican breakfast. 905 E. Ave. E, Alpine, TX 79830. 432-837-9951. Hours? Also open for lunch.

Penny’s Diner (<http://www.yelp.com/biz/pennys-diner-alpine>): 24-hour 50s-style diner, American food. 2407 Hwy. 90 E, Alpine, TX 79830. 432-837-5711. Open 24/7.

#### Lunch & dinner options:

La Trattoria (<http://www.latrattoriacafe.com/>): café-style Italian food, pizzas, pastas, and vegetarian options, beer and wine. 901 E. Holland, Alpine TX 79830. 432-837-2200. 11 am -3:30 pm. Closed Sun & Mon. Also open for dinner 5–9 pm.

Alicia’s Mexican Café (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Alicias-Mexican-Restaurant/151108571599043>): Burritos, Mexican dishes, hamburgers. 708 E. Gallego Ave., Alpine, TX 79830. 432-837-2802. 8 am–8 pm Mon-Fri., 8 am–3 pm Sat & Sun. Also serves breakfast.

Century Bar & Grill (<http://thecenturybarandgrill.com/>): “distinctive dining in the historic Holland Hotel.” 209 W. Holland Ave., Alpine, TX 79830. 432-837-1922. 5 pm–10 pm, 7 days a week. Bar open until midnight.

There are also several fast-food restaurants near Sul Ross including McDonalds, Pizza Hut, and Sonic.



## iDigBio Workshop, TORCH VIII: Saturday 24 May, 2014, 9 am–5 pm

### Introduction & Registration Information

**The iDigBio Workshop is open to anyone who is interested in participating, but requires registration and has a limited capacity.** The workshop is intended for those who are interested in digitizing their collections, those who are actively digitizing, and those who have already digitized their collections and wish to make their data available to the iDigBio National Portal for Biocollections (<https://www.idigbio.org/portal>). In other words, it is open to our entire membership, all of you are likely to find it relevant and useful, and we encourage your participation!

**The iDigBio Workshop (9 am–5 pm Saturday May 24) has a limited capacity for 25 curators and 5 students.** *Those who wish to attend this workshop should e-mail both Amanda Neill & Wayne Elisens as soon as possible to have their names put on the participant list.* Workshop participants will receive travel & registration reimbursement not to exceed \$400 (with travel receipts and/or mileage documentation) for their attendance, thanks to some residual funds from the NSF CSBR grant that supported the 2011 and 2012 TORCH workshops. Unfortunately these funds are limited and restricted in their use, and reimbursement is only available to the 30 workshop participants, and only for specific costs of getting to Alpine and participating in the workshop itself (not the field trip). Reimbursement will include the cost of the workshop registration (which covers meals for that day), lodging in the Sul Ross Fletcher Hall dormitory for Friday and Saturday night, per diem for Friday and Saturday, and round-trip travel costs from your home to Alpine. The **deadline** for registration is **FRIDAY MAY 2**.

**We are seeking participants who will volunteer to present in the “lightning round” portion of this workshop.** We seek very brief presentations (5-10 minutes) on any subject related to digitization of your personal collections, digitization projects at your herbarium, or on the use of digital herbarium data in your research. Please indicate on the registration form if you are willing to present something. Both curator and student presentations are welcome!

**Student Travel Awards:** Once again, we are looking for five undergraduate or graduate students associated with TX-OK herbaria who would benefit from attending this workshop. If you know such a student, please let them know they should 1) write a letter about why they want to attend the iDigBio Workshop at TORCH, and 2) they should request a letter of recommendation from their advisor OR the curator of the collection with which they are associated. Both letters should be sent to Amanda Neill ([aneill@brit.org](mailto:aneill@brit.org)) & Wayne Elisens ([elisens@ou.edu](mailto:elisens@ou.edu)). The **NEW deadline** for this competitive student travel award application (travel & registration reimbursement not to exceed \$400, reimbursement rules described above) will be **FRIDAY APRIL 25**. Deadline for registration for the meeting is Friday May 2.

This workshop has a new wiki page on the iDigBio website at [https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/TORCH\\_VIII\\_%2B\\_iDigBio\\_Workshop](https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/TORCH_VIII_%2B_iDigBio_Workshop), where presentations, notes, and resources will be posted following the meeting.





## iDigBio Workshop, TORCH VIII: Saturday 24 May, 2014, 9 am–5 pm

### Agenda

**The iDigBio Workshop is open to anyone who is interested in participating, but requires pre-registration and has a limited capacity.** All workshop activities and meals/snacks will occur in Warnock Science Building Rm 201 on the Sul Ross campus.

The workshop iDigBio staff leaders & presenters are Deb Paul (User Services Specialist, Florida State University) and Joanna McCaffrey (Biodiversity Informatics Manager). TORCH invited presenters include Tiana Rehman (BRIT-SMU-VDB Collections Manager) and Jason Best (Director of Biodiversity Informatics at BRIT).

8:00 am	Continental breakfast provided
9:00 am	Welcome (Wayne & Amanda)
9:15 am	Workshop Goals & Logistics (Amanda, Martin, & Deb)
9:30 am	Participant self-introduction
9:45 am	Introduction to iDigBio (Deb)
10:00 am	Overview of iDigBio Resources/ Website/ Wikis/ Listservs/ TCNs/ Portal (Deb)
10:30 am	Coffee break
11:00 am	Digitization projects/ lightning round presentations (from TORCH herbaria)
12:00 pm	Lunch provided
1:00 pm	Herbarium digitization protocols & workflows (for flat sheets and packets—from DROID I) (Tiana & Deb)
1:30 pm	Imaging equipment & standards (Jason, Tiana, & Joanna)
2:00 pm	Data standards & delivering your data to the iDigBio Portal (Joanna)
2:30 pm	Coffee break
3:00 pm	Data extraction & identifiers Portal (Deb)
3:30 pm	Group exploration of the iDigBio Portal (Joanna & Deb)
4:00 pm	Q&A, wrap-up
5:00 pm	End of formal workshop

We hope any non-registrants who are still in Alpine will rejoin us for social time and the group dinner (indicate you want the dinner-only registration option).

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm	Social time at Harry's Tinaja (self-pay; see meals & events page)
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Group dinner provided for registrants at Los Jalapeños (included in workshop registration cost, or in dinner-only registration option; see meals & events page)
9:00 pm	For those not ready to retire, perhaps a carpool out to Marfa to see the mysterious lights? (see meals & events page)

**iDigBio Workshop, TORCH VIII:  
Saturday 24 May, 2014, 9 am–5 pm**

Your notes:



# Sul Ross State University

*A Member of the Texas State University System*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. President's Home                                       | 12. Fletcher Hall                                       |
| 2. Wildenthal Memorial Library                            | 13. Industrial Technology Building                      |
| 3. Morgan University Center<br>(Espino Conference Center) | 14. Art Annex   |
| 4. Briscoe Administration Building                        | 15. Physical Plant                                      |
| 5. Morelock Academic Building<br>(Marshall Auditorium)    | 16. Lobo Village Housing Complex                        |
| 6. Academic Computer Resource Center                      | 17. Residential Living Office                           |
| 7. Lawrence Hall  | 18. Graves-Pierce Complex                               |
| 7A. Cactus Garden   | 19. Pete P. Gallego Center                              |
| 8. McCoy Building (Museum of the Big Bend)                | 20. Tennis Courts                                       |
| 9. Francois Fine Arts Building (Studio Theatre)           | 21. Turner Range Animal Science Agricultural<br>Complex |
| 10. Warnock Science Building                              | (P) Parking Lot   |
| 11. Ferguson Hall   | (E) Entrance  |