

# The Texas Sage

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter



Vol. 12 No. 12  
December 2000

## From the editor . . .

I want to begin by apologizing for the tardiness of this month's newsletter. The holiday season has barely begun, and I'm already behind. But help has arrived! Beginning next month, The Texas Sage will have two new editors. Janan Rabiah and Vickie Neal have volunteered to edit the newsletter in 2001. While this may not be official until our soon-to-be-elected chapter President appoints them, I have no doubts that they will be appointed and that they'll do a fantastic job.

Ev Woodrey, of the nominating committee, tells me that she has some wonderful candidates who would like to serve as our chapter officers. Helena van Heiningen has been nominated for the office of President. Gailon Hardin, who has done such a wonderful job this

year, has been nominated to be Vice President for another year. For the positions of Secretary and Treasurer, Jeannie Browning and Alan Klein are the nominees. And Ev Woodrey has offered to continue as our chapter Historian.

We will be voting on the new officers at the December 7<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting. Our speaker that evening will be Randy Weston of Weston Gardens in Bloom. He'll be treating us to a presentation on "Cottage Gardens – Texas Style".

The January meeting will be our annual potluck meal and progressive gift exchange. As usual, this meeting will be on a Sunday afternoon at 2:00pm. **There will be no meeting on the first Thursday of January.** Bring a dish to share and native plant or

gift that a fellow gardener would enjoy. We always have a great time!

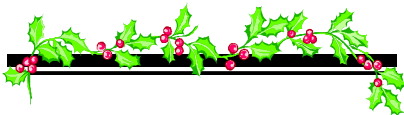
With the coming of the new year, it's also time to renew your subscription to the Texas Sage. The newsletter costs \$10 for a one year subscription (12 issues). Please make your check out to NPSOT and send it to:

Jeanne Marie Smith  
720 Highland Drive  
Arlington, TX 76010.

If you are a new member that joined late in the year, you won't need to renew until next year.

I hope everyone has a happy holiday season!

- Debbie Fierros



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### Learn More About Our Local Grasses

A publication titled *The Grasses of Texas Cross Timbers and Prairies* is available from Texas A&M University.

To request a copy, send a check for \$6.00 payable to the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management to:

Attn: S.L. Hatch  
S.M. Tracy Herbarium  
Rangeland Ecology and Management  
Texas A&M University  
2126 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-2126

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## People's Planet TV Series on CNN

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A new 6-part series based loosely on *State of the World 1999*, began on November 19 (9:00pm on CNN) and will continue through December 24.

The series focuses on the environmental revolution needed to bring our activities into balance with the natural world. The series argues for major, joint initiatives by civil society, governments and companies to improve our use of resources and to minimize our global impact. It is intended as a scene setter for the next UN Earth Summit, in the summer of 2002. It was shot in 24 countries on five continents.

The program will air on successive Sundays through December 24, 2000. The titles of the six 45-minute programs are: *Beyond Consumerism*, *Transforming Our Cities*, *Feeding Nine Billion*, *Re-valuing Nature*, *The Search for Global Justice*, and *Racing for the Sun*.

In addition to working with the producers of the series, Worldwatch President Chris Flavin and Chairman of the Board Lester Brown are among the distinguished group of interviewees. Other interviewees include Vadana Shiva, Paul Hawken, Wangari Maathai, Amory Lovins, and Jane Goodall.

### Demo Garden News

#### Granbury Rd. Subcourthouse

There will be a work day on December 2 from 8am to noon – weather permitting. Bring clippers and join the Granbury Road Subcourthouse Raiders !!! Thanks to Victoria Neal for attending the previous work day ... it was wet but a great day for pulling weeds. The garden is looking fabulous despite the dry summer and drenching rains of November. The county is still trying to locate funds for replacement plants.

#### Hulen Library

There will not be a workday this month at the Hulen Library Demonstration garden.



### Treasurer's Report

by Jean-Marie Smith

Balance (10/25/00)	\$ 543.21
Deposits (dues, donation)	\$ 45.00
Expenditures (program, room, bank fees)	[\$ 94.00]
	\$ 494.21
Balance (11/27/00)	\$ 494.21



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## Wild Basin Wilderness Promotes Natives

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The Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve in Austin would like to join forces with the Native Plant Society on a program in January. On Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Preserve will be highlighting native plants and appropriate or desirable landscaping practices that use native plants. Wild Basin's administration hopes to strengthen an already developing partnership with the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve was founded in 1974 to protect 227 acres of pristine Texas Hill Country and to provide nature education programs. The preserve has 2 1/2 miles of hiking trails that pass through woodland, grassland, and streamside habitats. These habitats are home to threatened and endangered species, and hundreds of native plants, animals and birds. Wild Basin's nature education programs are funded by special events, memberships, corporate donations and grants.

Each month Wild Basin has a family program (Family Trail Days or FTD) that focuses on specific themes. The January FTD theme is Landscaping with Native Plants. Through the course of the day, they would like to offer small (12-15 student) group sessions,

about one hour long, that would emphasize different possibilities. A small fee (\$5-\$10 per person) would be charged for each session and the proceeds from the programs could be split between Wild Basin and the Native Plant Society. One session could be on native plants and . . . water gardens or butterflies, wildlife, amphibians, low-water use, or a combination of these topics. One very much needed session could be on expectations and reality when gardening with native plants. Some titles that have been mentioned at a preliminary meeting include: Maintenance of Native Trees, How to Identify Rosettes of Winter Native Perennials, and Edible and Useful Wild Plants.

The day will consist of the sale of appropriate native plants (appropriate for the time of year and for the Austin area); exhibits; children's activities and self-guided tours. Opportunities for participation include presentations of one-hour programs, exhibits in the hall, and the sale of plants. (\$30 table fee).

Wild Basin would like to begin the program at 8:00am and run through 2:00 or 3:00pm. Students will have the option of signing up in advance for the sessions, and if space is

available, drop-ins will be welcome.

Concurrently, throughout the day, displays in the Hall, activities for children, self-guided tours and hopefully a small native plant sale will be taking place. All NPSOT members are invited to participate in a native plant sale, as long as the plants are appropriate for the West Austin Hill Country area and for the time of year. This is to be a test for what we hope will be a bigger sale in the spring.

Wild Basin anticipates offering a native plants sale as a part of their popular Spring Art and Music Festival which attracts thousands of people. It is a natural time of year to also hold a plant sale.

The first planning meeting for the event will take place on November 30 in Austin. If anyone is interested in participating in the January FTD, they should contact Carol Knepp, Director of Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve at (512)327-7622 or [carolk@wildbasin.org](mailto:carolk@wildbasin.org). To learn more about the preserve and it's events, go to their website at [www.wildbasin.org](http://www.wildbasin.org).

*[The information in this article was excerpted from an email from Carol Knepp and from the preserve website at [www.wildbasin.org](http://www.wildbasin.org)]*

## Trip to San Miguel de Allende

A member of the Houston Chapter of NPSOT, Bruce Evans, sent our chapter an email describing a trip to San Miguel de Allende in Mexico that he is putting together for people interested in native plants and vacations in beautiful places. This trip is not a NPSOT function . . . it's an independently organized trip for plant enthusiasts. There are many enjoyable activities in the city of San Miguel de Allende, so even those not enthusiastic about plants would have a great time.

The trip is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> through June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The focus of the tour will be a nature preserve on the outskirts of San Miguel de Allende called El Charco del Ingenio. The preserve is dedicated to the conservation, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural resources included in it's 250 acres. Charco projects parallel the goals of the NPSOT. At Charco, they:

- Provide education field trips to see plants common to this region
- Preserve rare and endangered species
- Encourage the use of natives in landscaping or agricultural use
- Protect natives from being lost to development
- Learn propagation techniques
- Learn the historical uses of plants in this part of the world.

The abundant flora of Mexico, with about 30,000 species (greater than that of the United States and Canada combined) is still not well known. There are many plants common to Texas, although there are different varieties. Many



tropical plants grow here because San Miguel is located south of the Tropic of Cancer.

El Charco del Ingenio is the ancestral name of a pond nestled on a spectacular canyon where native plants and diverse natural ecosystems flourish. The Charco organization will provide an English-speaking botanist for the group.

The trip also includes visits to other natural and historic sites in and around San Miguel, such as a nature hike in a forest reserve, a visit to hot springs, watching a parade and fireworks display, and the chance to visit historic churches, museums, libraries and art galleries.

San Miguel de Allende is nestled high in the foothills between the Sierra Madre Occidental and Sierra Madre Oriental mountains. This region is geographically linked with Texas – West Texas is in the upper reaches of the Chihuahuan desert and San Miguel de Allende is in the

southern part. It is located 180 miles northwest of Mexico City and has an ideal spring-like climate . . . even in June.

The town's narrow cobblestone streets and impressive colonial architecture make it one of the most beautiful cities in Mexico. San Miguel attracts many artists, writers and musicians who are inspired by its atmosphere. Today's population of 60,000 includes about 5,000 Americans and English is commonly spoken. The streets are very safe as well as beautiful.

Prices are very reasonable. There are many moderately priced hotels and a variety of inexpensive restaurants. Transportation around the city is easy. Taxis are everywhere and the cost is about \$1.50 US to most places in the central area. Accommodations on the trip will be in a number of unique Bed and Breakfast type inns that cater to Americans.

The price for the lodging and all activities listed is \$985 per person not including airfare. A minimum of 15 participants is required. Airfare discounts may be available. A participant agreement and a deposit of \$50 is due by January 28, 2001. If you are interested in attending, please contact:

Bruce Evans  
9506 Meadowbriar Lane  
Houston, Texas 77063  
Home (713)781-2738  
[Aevans1@teacher.esc4.com](mailto:Aevans1@teacher.esc4.com)

*[This article was excerpted from an email message and brochure sent by Bruce Evans.]*

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**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, December 7 at 7PM  
at FW Botanical Garden

**Join the Native Plant Society of Texas!**

As a member of the state organization, you will receive an annual subscription to the *NPSOT News*, and you will be invited to attend the NPSOT Annual Symposium.

Memberships :	___ Individual	\$20
	___ Family	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if this is a membership renewal	___ Student	\$15
	___ Sr. Citizen	\$15

Make check payable to NPSOT and mail this form and check to:  
Native Plant Society of Texas  
P.O. Box 891  
Georgetown, TX 78627

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