



THE TEXAS SAGE

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Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter

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President's Corner . . .

Dear Members:

Rain, rain **don't** go away, come again another day.....and another day. Isn't this rainfall wonderful !!!! On Sunday, Nord reminded me that it was raining as I worked in the garden, but my reply was "So?" The cool rain drops didn't bother me, in fact, they were so refreshing for both the plants and me, that I stayed outside most of the day. Over the weekend our rain gauge measured one inch! I hope you received as much or more.

Check your calendars NOW because there are many exciting events coming up this fall.

The first calendar entry will be the monthly meeting on September 6th, 2001. Stephen Chamblee of The Fort Worth Botanic Garden will speak to us about the use of native plants at the Botanic Garden. Come early and take a stroll through the beautiful gardens and view the natives and other plants.

Also mark your calendar for the 2001 Joint Symposium and Annual NPSOT meeting in Austin on October 4-7, 2001. The theme of this conference is "The Dawn of the 21st Century- The Texas Biomes and All Their Habitats". This is an opportunity to learn about our state's amazing biodiversity. Experts from all ten of our vegetative zones will be present to review their respective zones. A presentation of what makes these zones different, their past glory, their present state and what the future holds can be seen and heard in a single day. But the weekend is full of activities and educational opportunities. Visit the state web site for further information or come to the September meeting to get more details.

The next calendar entry is the North Central NPSOT Fall Garden Tour on October 13 and 14, 2001. On Sunday, August 26, the Garden Tour Committee and the owners of the featured gardens enjoyed a Middle Eastern feast at the home of Janan and Stephen. Janan Rabiah and Stephen Haydon are the Co-Chairpersons of the Garden Tour and served a delectable and interesting assortment of ethnic foods including baklava.

The Garden Tour is a "don't miss" event and one that everyone can support. The Committee estimates an approximate attendance of 800 – 1,000 people. You can help by becoming a monetary sponsor, helping the committee with many final tasks or volunteering on the lecture or garden tour day.

Andy Wasowski will speak at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens about the landscape revolution taking place where native plants play a viable and vital role as an alternative to traditional plants. He will discuss the common belief of lawn dominance that is so pervasive today and challenge us to make a difference. You will be astonished that many of the state capitol's grounds share the exact same plant material. Most of us are already committed and demonstrate the use of native plants in our gardens. The purpose of this tour is to invite the public to view private gardens that would not otherwise be seen. A professional resource book is a part of the ticket price and detailed garden plans and plant lists will be available at the gardens. We want and need your help so sign up at the next meeting or call Gailon Hardin to volunteer.

Helena

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State Meeting Information

Native Plant Society of Texas / Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center 2001 Joint Symposium and NPSOT Annual Meeting. The Annual Member's Meeting is held each October and in addition to a business session, the central focus of the NPSOT state meeting is an educational symposium. At this convention, NPSOT also honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of Texas native plants, through its annual awards ceremony and banquet. Field trips, exhibitions, and seminars complete the weekend program.

For additional information and to register go to http://www.npsot.org/events/FallSymposium/Symposium_2001.html or call 512.868.8799.

Presenters by region, include:

Region 1: Pineywoods

Dr. David Creech, Stephen F. Austin University, Nacogdoches, Texas

Region 2: Gulf Prairies and Marshes

Dr. Fred Smeins, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas

Region 3: Post Oak Savannah

Dr. Mike Arnold, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas

Region 4: Blackland Prairies

Jim Eidson, Clymer Meadow Preserve, Celeste, Texas

Region 5: Cross Timbers and Prairies

Dr. George Diggs, Austin College, Sherman, Texas

Region 6: South Texas Plains

Robert Lonard, UT-PanAm, Edinburg, Texas

Region 7: Edwards Plateau

Dr. Chuck Sexton, Balcones Canyonlands Wildlife Refuge, Austin, Texas

Region 8: Rolling Plains

Dr. Cynthia McKenney, Texas A&M Research Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas

Region 9: High Plains

Dr. Sandra Balch, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

Region 10: Trans-Pecos

Dr. Wayne Mackay, Texas A&M Research Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas

Effect of Alien Plant Invasion on Native Plant Communities

Kathryn Kennedy, Center for Plant Conservation, St. Louis, Missouri

Restoring Our Biome's Diversity

Dr. Steve Windhager, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, Texas

Some of the workshops titles and presenters include:

Forum on Propagation Techniques for Native Plants - Jill Nokes, Patrick Kirwin, Pat McNeal, Robbi Will

Restoration Techniques - Dick and Pat Richardson

Gardening with Deer - It's a Growing Problem! - Patti Simons

Seed Ball Workshop - Jeff Long

Gardening with Texas Native Cacti and Succulents - Bob Barth

ID of Grasses and Grass-like Plants and Their Uses in Landscape and Restoration - Pat McNeal

Basics of Plant Rescue - Scott Lenharth

Successful Wildflower Seed Collection - Edith Bettinger

Demo Garden News

Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse

We're planning two workdays this month because the Fall Garden Tour is right around the corner! These workdays will be Saturday, September 8 and September 22 from 8 am to noon. We've ordered a good cloud cover and cooler temperatures so come out and see if it worked! This will be our last opportunity to prepare the garden for what will be a popular public event. Contact Helena van Heiningen 817.244.5338 for additional information.

Hulen Library

We will meet at the garden for grooming and maintenance work on the last Thursday of the month at 8:00 a.m., other days as needed. Contact Ev Woodrey at 817.295.4683 for additional information.

Veterans Park Wildscape

There will be a workday on Saturday, September 1 from 9:00-NOON. If you would like more information, contact Molly Hollar at 817.860.5580.

What's Happening . . .

Saturday, September 1 **9:00 AM - NOON** **Veterans Park Wildscape, Arlington**
Volunteer Workday at the Veterans Park Wildscape. If you would like more information, contact Molly Hollar at 817.860.5580. The Wildscape is located at the intersection of Arkansas Lane and Spanish Trail. Meet in the Southeast corner of the park.

Thursday, September 6 **7:00 PM** **Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**
NPSOT North Central Chapter Meeting. This month, come hear Stephen Chamblee of the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens speaking on "Natives in the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens". Contact Helena van Heiningen, President, at 817.244.5338 for further information.

Saturday, September 8 and 22 **8:00 AM - NOON** **Granbury Road Demonstration Garden**
Workday at the Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse demonstration garden. Please help us on these two important dates to get the garden ready for the Fall Garden Tour! Bring clippers and tools to weed and trim. Contact Helena van Heiningen at 817.244.5338 for further information.

September 28 - October 21 **Texas Discovery Gardens, Fair Park**
7th Annual "Butterflies in the Blachly" live butterfly exhibit. Volunteers share the beauty and wonder of insects and plants with visitors. We ask you to attend training, and commit to a minimum of three, four-hour shifts. Volunteers receive free parking and admission to the State Fair of Texas, and their immediate family is invited to attend the members' preview of the butterfly exhibit. Call 214-428-7476 x25 with questions.

October 4 - 7 **Austin, TX**
NPSOT/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center 2001 Joint Symposium and NPSOT Annual Meeting. This meeting/symposium will concentrate on every region of Texas and is a "don't miss" opportunity. Flyers and additional information will be available at the September meeting and on page 2 of this newsletter.

Help support the State NPSOT organization by making a donation for the Silent Auction at the State Symposium. All proceeds go toward scholarships. These do not have to be expensive items or items related to native plants. Everything is welcome from rocking chairs to note cards and jellies or items of local interest. Contact Helena for more information or pick up and transportation to the meeting.

October 13 **10:00 AM - 2:00 PM** **Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**
Fort Worth Botanic Gardens will hold it's annual Fall Plant and Bulb Sale. This plant sale features many fall-blooming perennials, ornamental grasses, shrubs, trees, spring-blooming bulbs, and plants sold by different plant societies. Come and buy up some goodies after hearing Andy Wasowski speak!

October 13 **10:00 AM** **Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**
Andy Wasowski has been secured to launch our Chapter's first public garden tour with a lecture on the landscape revolution that is underway and the role native plants are playing. See page 5 for additional information.

October 14 **11:00 AM - 6:00 PM** **Southwest Fort Worth and North Richland Hills**
It's finally arrived! Our Chapter's first ever public garden tour! Please come and join us as a volunteer at one of seven local gardens. As a volunteer you'll be invited to attend a pre-tour garden tour so you won't miss a thing. This promised to be a very popular event and will provide terrific exposure for native plants and our society. Please see page 5 for more information.

October 20 - 21 **Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**
Fall Festival in the Japanese Garden - Celebration of Japanese culture in the beauty of the Japanese Garden. Enjoy traditional Japanese dance and musical instruments, martial arts, bonsai, ikebana, the tea ceremony, and children's activities. See the beautiful new Suzuki stone garden in the Japanese Garden. \$3 for adults; children 12 and under admitted free. (817) 761-7685.

Plant of the Month American Beautyberry

Latin Name: *Callicarpa americana*

Landscape Zone: 6 – 8

Size: 3 – 6 feet

Leaves: Deciduous

Flowers: Small white flowers in spring, insignificant

Fruit: Late summer to fall, clusters of iridescent purple berries

Soil: Adaptable, moist to well drained

Exposure: Partial shade, full sun

Water: Requires moisture (32" year)



The genius name of this shrub tells it all: *Calli* means “beauty” in Greek, and *carpa* means “fruit”. American Beautyberry lives up to its name. From late summer until long after they lose their leaves, the arching branches droop with clusters of shiny purple fruits along the stems at each leaf node. This plant requires some moisture and its leaves have a tendency to droop during the summer in a full sun exposure. Left to develop its natural form it makes a large bush to six feet. The fruits are produced on current season’s growth, to maximize new growth, I prune mine hard to the ground each spring stimulating a new crop of vigorous growth. This heavy pruning results in the plants reaching a height of about four feet in full sun. The plants don’t respond as well to this treatment in the shade. The berries hang on until after the first frost when the leaves drop and the berries are shown off to their full potential along the arching branches, the berries remain until the birds find and feast on them. There is a white form of American Beautyberry, variety *Lactea*, but its berries are not as resilient as the purple form and I have found it difficult to locate at local nurseries. *Callicarpa americana* can be used to best effect as an under story shrub in light shade or as part of mixed plantings in full sun. I’m writing this in mid-August and my berries are turning which signals to me cooler fall days are just around the corner.

Stephen P. Haydon

NPSOT Garden Tour Update

NPSOT's *first* public garden tour will be held October 13 & 14! Seven gardens have been selected for the tour and are centered in two geographical locations, Southwest Fort Worth and North Richland Hills. The gardens represent a variety of landscape styles and all feature native Texas plants.

As you may have read in past newsletters Andy Wasowski has been secured to launch the tour with a lecture at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden on the morning of Saturday, October 13th at 10:00 a.m. The Fort Worth Botanic Garden will be partnering with us and donating the use of their auditorium.

We will need everyone's help during the tour! It is hoped that the event will generate funds for the educational endeavors of our chapter in the coming year. We can't do it without you! Recruit friends and relatives - gardening expertise is not necessary for many of the jobs like collecting and selling tickets and directing foot traffic in the gardens. All volunteers will be invited to a special pre-tour Tour so no one will miss seeing the great gardens.

The Master Gardeners recently held a fund raising garden tour featuring just six gardens. They were pleasantly surprised with over **900 visitors**. We are confident that our tour will be equally successful; therefore **we need every possible volunteer** along with his or her family, friends and neighbors to help with this ambitious project. We need a total of 80 volunteers to help at the gardens the day of the tour. Please contact Gailon Hardin our Volunteer Coordinator at 817.457.4703 or ghardin@flash.net to offer your assistance.

For additional information regarding the Tour please contact Janan Rabiah or Stephen Haydon , Garden Tour Chairpersons, at (817) 924-3378 or email at jrabiah@ix.netcom.com or sphjr1@ix.netcom.com.

Garden Tour

October 13 & 14, 2001

Saturday, October 13th 10:00 a.m.

Andy Wasowski—Keynote Speaker
Fort Worth Botanic Garden Lecture Hall

Sunday, October 14th 11:00—6:00 p.m.

Seven residential gardens featuring native Texas plants—Tour

Tickets: \$10. per person /\$8 advance purchase (includes: lecture and tour)
Available at the following locations beginning Sept. 21st:

Green Mama's Organic Garden Center
Hulen Wild Bird Center
Redenta's Garden (Arlington & Colleyville locations)
Weston Gardens in Bloom
Fort Worth Botanic Garden (Sat. Oct. 13 from 8:00—Noon **only**)

Call (817) 924-3378 or email jrabiah@ix.netcom.com for more information

Presented by the North Central Chapter
Native Plant Society of Texas



