



THE TEXAS SAGE

Please Welcome Our Year 2001 Officers and Committee Chairs

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter
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President's Corner ...

Dear Members and Friends:

The regular North Central NPSOT meeting in January is always a potluck meal and progressive gift exchange. This year a determined and brave group met on January 7th to celebrate the beginning of a new year. There was a lively gift exchange and assertion of ownership, only to discover the gift would be re-claimed moments later by another member. The Herb Bible, dibbler, beaver shoe cleaner and basil pot were the most coveted gifts and after three transfers their ownership was locked. You must ask Stephen Haydon about the purpose and naming of the dibbler, although it looked dangerous it is a well adapted garden tool. As usual, the Wood family formed a strong team, though I noted some friendly inter-family competition. Sharon Wood had a knack of picking the most popular gifts but also lost possession the most number of times. Even so, Sharon and the rest of us all left with treasures and anticipation of next year's meeting.

A new member, Elaine Couch, who has recently purchased a home already planted with native landscaping, asked for advice on care and grooming of her natives. Everyone had an opportunity to give growing and pruning advice and their own personal experiences with different species.

The meeting closed after brainstorming on program ideas for the coming year. Please contact Gailon Hardin with suggestions for future meeting programs and speakers.

The new officers and committee chairpersons of the North Central NPSOT

were voted into office at the December meeting and are eager to serve you. On behalf of the membership, we want to welcome the new officers and give special thanks for the returning officers and chairpersons. Returning for the year 2001 are Gailon Hardin, Ev Woodrey, Dagmar Higgins, Sharon Wood, Michele May and Carolyn Kohls. New officers are Helena van Heiningen, Alan Klein, Jeannie Browning, Janan Rabiah and Victoria Neal. Monthly Board Meetings are open to all members on the third Thursday of each month. Call me if you would like to attend the February 15th Board meeting. Call Helena for meeting location. We are searching for a central location convenient to all.

Various volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year. The demonstration gardens at the Hulen Library, Granbury Road Sub-Court House and Veteran's Park are existing activities and provide opportunities to learn about growing native plants as well as maintaining them year round. If you are not already involved, contact Ev Woodrey, Molly Hollar or myself to get more information. We have a great time!!!

Welcome to a new chapter year and I encourage your participation in making a difference.

Don't miss the next meeting on February 1 to hear Dr. Richard V. Francaviglia author of The Cast Iron Forest. See page 5 of this newsletter for more information about Dr. Francaviglia.

Helena van Heiningen
President

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Garden Tour Update

The final dates have been set for Saturday and Sunday, October 13 & 14. Please set these days aside now, because we will need each and everyone of you and your friends to help out.

Wild Orchid Program

Plans are in the works for a jointly hosted program in March 2001 by the North Texas and the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists to have Joe Liggio, author of Wild Orchids of Texas, come and speak to us. Jeff Quayle, who is organizing the event, has suggested a place in the mid cities area, possibly Arlington, to make it convenient for both chapters. He is suggesting a Saturday morning program of about 1-2 hours. Please contact Jeff at 817.738.1322 to offer your suggestions and comments!

Welcome to NPSOT:

Emily Steele
Walker Graham Jr.

Demo Garden News

Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse

There will be a work day on Saturday, February 3, from 8 AM to noon. Bring clippers and join the Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse Raiders!!!

Please see the **Looking for . . .** section on page 4 for a list of replacement plants needed.

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 10:30 a. m. through April. Summer dates are the last Wednesday at 8:30 a. m., other days as needed. Contact Ev Woodrey at 817.295.4683 for additional information.

Veterans Park Wildscape

There will be two work days this month. One on Saturday, February 3 and one on Saturday the 17th, both from 9:00-NOON. If you would like more information, contact Molly Hollar at 817.860.5580.

Donate Raffle Items

Part of the fun at our monthly meetings is the raffle. Not only is it fun but the money raised helps pay the rental costs for the room at the Botanic Gardens.

This raffle works under the principle of "you win one, you bring one." If you win the raffle this month, be sure and bring an item for the raffle next month.

Good luck!

Demo Gardens Work!

Jacklin Davis, librarian at the Meadowbrook Public Library recently contacted us about helping to design flowerbeds at her facility. She talked to the librarian at the Hulen Public Library who gave her Sharon Woods name. Sharon told her that we could not provide funding or maintain the garden but that we could probably find her someone to help design the bed and maybe even some volunteers to install the gardens. Please contact Jacklin at 817.451.4498 or 817.451.0988 if you are able to help her in any way.

Historian Needs Help

Ev Woodrey, our historian is seeking donations for the chapter scrapbook. She's interested in old newsletters and any material relevant to NPSOT and it's history in North Central Texas

You can send these items to:

Ev Woodrey
2605 CR 531
Burleson, TX 76028

What's Happening . . .

Thursday, February 1 **7:00 PM** **Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**
NPSOT North Central Chapter Meeting. Dr. Richard Francaviglia, History Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and author of The Cast Iron Forest will make a presentation on "History of the Cross Timbers Area". Contact Helena van Heiningen, President, at 817.244.5338 for further information.

Saturday, February 3 **8:00 AM - NOON** **Granbury Road Demonstration Garden**
 Workday at the Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse demonstration garden. Bring clippers and tools to weed and trim. Contact Helena van Heiningen at 817.244.5338 for further information.

Saturdays, February 3 and 17 **9:00 - 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.

Tuesday, February 6 **7:30 PM** **Fielder House Museum**
 The Star Flowers Garden Club will host a talk on Flower Arranging and Design given by Carol Lane of the Texas Garden Clubs. Contact Margaret Maggard, President, at 817.483.8387 for further information.

Saturdays, February 10 and 17 **Arlington City Hall**
 Annual Master Composter Course
 Arlington Master Composters will hold its annual training course at the Arlington City Hall. The class is free, and anyone interested should call Lorrie Anderlee at 817-459-6777.

Saturday, February 17 **10:00 AM** **Spring Creek Forest Preserve**
 A fieldtrip is planned to the Spring Creek Forest Preserve, led by Jeff Quayle (817.738.1322). Meet in the parking lot on Holford Road. From I-635 in Garland at Highway 78 (Garland Ave.), go north on 78/South Garland Ave. South Garland changes to North Garland Ave., then Arapaho Road. Pass North Garland Road off of Arapaho on the right and then turn right on Holford Road, and go the parking lot on the left. We'll walk for 2-3 hours, mainly looking for the Dog's Tooth Violets/Trout Lilies (*Erythronium albidum*). JEFF'S NOTE: If you have never been here, I HIGHLY recommend you come! This preserve is spectacular, with massive old growth trees (brochure lists 8 oaks), and numerous wildflowers. It is a biological wonder!

Thursday, February 22 **7:30 PM** **Vandergriff Park**
 The Arlington Organic Garden Club will host a meeting about Vegetable Gardening given by Dotty Woodson, Tarrant County Horticulture Agent. Contact Dorothy Beard, President, at 817.446.7935 for further information. The meeting will be held at the Bob Duncan Community Center at Vandergriff Park.

Saturday, February 24 **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**
 Native Trees in the Landscape, NPSOT Symposium at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Call Jeanette Allison at 512.292.4200, ext 109, e-mail Allison@wildflower.org or visit www.wildflower.org for additional information. Helena will bring brochures to the February meeting.

Saturday, March 3 **8:00 AM - NOON** **Granbury Road Demonstration Garden**
 Workday at the Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse demonstration garden. Bring clippers and tools to weed and trim. Contact Helena van Heiningen at 817.244.5338 for further information.

Thursday, March 15 **Meeting - 7:00 PM, Program - 8:00 PM** **Walnut Hill Recreation Center**
 NPSOT Dallas Chapter Meeting. Jeff Quayle will be speaking on Rare and Unusual/Uncommon Wildflowers of North Central Texas. Jeff will also discuss how he discovered *Senecio quaylei* (see article on page 4). Illustrations of *Senecio quaylei*, drawn by Linny Heagy from BRIT, will be for sale at a cost of \$10.00 each. The Recreation Center is at the intersection of Walnut Hill Lane and Midway Road.

Friday-Sunday, March 16-18
 March 16-18th, 2001, NPSOT's 2001 Spring Field Trip to Deep East Texas. Call Sandi Elsik at 713.348.2555 for questions or visit www.npsot.org for event information.

Too Many to Mention: Local NPSOT chapter events are occurring all over the state. Go to the State web site and the Chapter links at www.npsot.org.

Plant of the Month Possum Haw

Latin Name: *Ilex decidua*

Landscape Zone: 4-9

Size: Shrub to 15 feet

Leaves: Deciduous

Fruit: Winter, 1/4-inch red berries

Soil: Adaptable, poor to well drained

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Water: Moderately drought tolerant



Winter interest is important in the garden and so often overlooked. The Possum Haw is a deciduous Holly and is definitely a star performer in my garden during the winter months; that is until the birds find the berries, but that is okay, we need to look after them too. The Possum Haw's leaves turn a beautiful yellow color in the fall, then when the leaves drop the bright red berries glow along the bare stems. I have my Possum Haw planted in front of a Cherry Laurel. The dark green, evergreen foliage of the Cherry Laurel makes a wonderful backdrop against which to view the Possum Haw's red berries during the winter. To produce good berries the Possum Haw needs at least six hours of sun a day. The Possum Haw is dioecious meaning male and female flowers are produced on separate plants. Only the female plants produce fruits and to produce fruit they need to be pollinated by a male. I believe other species of Hollies can do the job, but just to be sure my "ladies" produced berries, I went to the nursery in search of a male Possum Haw. The nursery assistant told me that he knew of a plant that had "no balls". I think he meant berries but I am still confused as to whether I purchased a male or female. "Warrens Red" is a particularly good variety of Possum Haw. "Warrens Red" is a selected form that is well adapted to this area, has a high berry count and the berries are a little larger than the Possum Haws that naturally occur in the wild.

Stephen P. Haydon

Come and get it . . .

Our idea for this section (shamelessly borrowed from the *Star Telegram*) is to provide an opportunity for you to pass along surplus materials to anybody who will come and get them—as long as they are free! Forward your information to one of the newsletter editors and we'll be sure to mention it next month.

Looking for . . .

This is our companion to the section above. Having trouble locating that Flame sumac? Want to know where to get the best bulk prices for compost? Let us know what you're looking for and we'll post it here.

For starters, we are in need of the following replacement plants for the Granbury Sub-Courthouse demo garden. Contact Helena van Heiningen at 817.244.5338 if you'd like to contribute.

- 10 #1 *Salvia greggii* - Red
- 7 #1 *Wedelia hispida* Zexmenia
- 6 #1 *Eupatorium greggii* Blue Mistflower
- 35 #1 *Aster oblongifolia* Fall Aster
- 10 4" Flats (18) *Melampodium leucanthum* Blackfoot daisy

Native Flower Found!

Plant discovered by FW volunteer

12/26/2000

By Debra Dennis / The Dallas Morning News

FORT WORTH – The Lone Star State, already boasting of more than 5,000 native flowering plants, can claim one more wildflower. Texas Master Naturalist volunteer Jeff Quayle of Fort Worth discovered the new plant while hiking Lake Mineral Wells State Park in April.

The new species was announced in the Dec. 19 issue of the botanical journal *Sida*, a publication of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas.

"There are people I know who are experienced naturalists or botanists and they've never had anything named for them, so it's quite an honor," said Mr. Quayle, 36.

The plant, a member of the sunflower family, informally will be called Quayle's ragwort.

"The discovery of a new species in a region close to home captivates the imagination," said Dr. Ted Barkley, a research associate at the Fort Worth-based Botanical Research Institute of Texas. "It also underscores the value of citizen volunteers for scientific efforts."

Dr. Barkley said because North Central Texas had been settled for more than 150 years, it had been assumed that all the area's native plants had been recorded.

Known by its scientific name, *Senecio quaylei* T. M. Barkley, the plant is a short-lived annual of the sunflower family and grows to be about waist-high, said Tom Harvey, a spokesman for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The wildflower produces yellow flowers in spring, he said.

Mr. Quayle recognized the flower from the genus *Senecio* but knew nothing else about it, Mr. Harvey said.

Dr. Barkley, a professor emeritus of botany at Kansas State University, sent samples to the Smithsonian Institution and the Royal Botanic Gardens in England, but no matches were found.

Dr. Barkley said any plant discovery is important, because it could assist genetic research into high-tech plant breeding, help develop new pharmaceuticals or yield horticultural uses.

Mr. Quayle, a self-taught botanist, is one of 850 volunteers in the Texas Master Naturalist program who work to help the public develop an understanding of conservation.

The volunteer program, co-sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Agricultural Extension Service, was started in 1997 and has 12 chapters throughout the state.

(Reprinted from the *Dallas Morning News*)

More information about *Senecio quaylei*

The publication of *Senecio quaylei* in *SIDA*, published by BRIT, was released on December 19, 2000. A press release was written by media relations at Texas Parks and Wildlife, and released on December 21, 2000. The Dallas Morning News article, printed above, (available at: http://www.dallasnews.com/metro/246583_flower_26met.A.html) covered the press release, dated December 26, 2000. Texas Parks and Wildlife also covered the press release, <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/news/001225g.htm>. BRIT is working on making a limited number of reprints of the *Senecio quaylei* article available to anyone who wants one. About 200 are being reprinted. If you are interested in the reprint, please let Jeff know. You can reach him at 817.738.1322, or at prairielover1@netzero.net. An online version will also be available to download from the Cross Timbers Master Naturalist web page at <http://home1.gte.net/ryoas/home.html>.

Dr. Richard Francaviglia

Dr. Richard Francaviglia is a historian and geographer interested in the way the American landscape has changed through time, and how this change is depicted in maps, literature and popular culture. His background includes experience as a historical resources consultant, college professor and administrator, and historical museum director.

He received an AA from Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, California (1965), a BA from University of California at Riverside (1967), and MA and Ph.D. (1970) from the University of Oregon. He has taught at the University of Minnesota, Antioch College, University of Arizona, and Wittenberg University, and is currently a Professor of History at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Dr. Francaviglia has written six books including *The Cast Iron Forest: A Natural and Cultural History of the North American Cross Timbers* (2000), and several other publications. He served in academic settings, public history positions, and is currently Director of the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography at the University of Texas at Arlington. His research interest include the ways in which the American landscape has been shaped by individuals, corporations, and religious groups, mining and transportation history, cartographic history, and environmental history.

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Next Meeting

Thursday, February 1 at
 7PM at the Fort Worth
 Botanic Gardens

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
 Check here if this is a _____ Student \$15
 membership renewal _____ Sr. Citizen \$15

To receive a one-year subscription to the North Central Chapter newsletter, *The Texas Sage*, please enclose an additional \$15. Send your check, payable to NPSOT, and updated contact information to:

Alan Klein
 5745 Chelmsford Trail
 Arlington, TX 76018

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

The Texas Sage

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For changes of address or information about contributing to the newsletter, please contact either of the newsletter editors.

The deadline for submitting articles for inclusion in next month's newsletter is the 10th of every month.

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