



# THE TEXAS SAGE

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Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter

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May 2001

## President's Corner . . .

Dear Members,

At the last meeting, May 4, 2001, our speaker was Charlene Rowell of the Heard Museum who spoke to us about native plants at the famous museum located in Collin County.

The Heard Museum is home to many of our favorite natives and is a sanctuary for plants and wildlife. Miss Bessie Heard was 80 years old when she saw the need for a place where future generations could come to experience nature. Miss Heard loved collecting, but eventually her collections grew too large for the Heard house in McKinney. The Museum opened in October 1967 and serves over 100,000 visitors annually. Consider planning a trip to the Heard in the near future and visit the Texas Native Plant Display Garden, the Wildlife Sanctuary and Nature Trails, the Raptor Rehabilitation area and Museum Collections. The Heard is also online at [www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org).

Charlene reminded us that the grand state of Texas covers 280,000 square miles and is home to over 5,000 species of native plants. There are 10 geographic zones with different soils, climates, rainfall and growing challenges. Our members live in several different zones and can tell true stories themselves. Charlene presented beautiful slides and discussed many familiar natives that we are using in our very own landscapes. Numerous lively discussions took place as characteristics, problems, and growing successes were shared.

Recently the Heard Museum held their annual plant sale and Charlene donated the following plants to the chapter: Mangle Dulce (May Tenusphyllanthorides), Desert Zinnia (Zinnia grandiflora), Deer Vetch (Lotus rigidus) Harvard Agave (Agave harvardina), Water Clover (Marsilleamacropoda) and Rattlebush (Sesbania drummondii).

Curators and mentors of native demonstration garden will have first choice to plant in the public gardens. All remaining plants will be offered at the raffle during the June meeting.

Once again, the raffle was a huge success with many, many winners, except for Ev who once again relied on the sympathy of other members to share their winnings. Just kidding. The more tickets you buy, the more you win! We had several guests who benefited from multiple wins. Thanks to Janan Rabiah and Stephen Hayden who donated the lovely Desert Willow for the raffle. Come to the meeting for an opportunity to win.

As a reminder, all winners should bring a gift for each gift received so we can continue the raffle. A large Cherry Laurel, donated by a local nursery, will be just one of the many raffle items.

Helena van Heiningen

## **Native Plant Seminar**

A Native Plant Seminar will be held at Texas Discovery Gardens, Saturday June 30, 2001. Come and join us for this exciting event! You will not only get a chance to tour a wonderful plant collection and hear Jill Nokes speak, but you'll also get a chance to meet some of your native plant brethren from the Dallas Chapter. This seminar is a joint meeting for the two chapters and will serve as our Chapter's July meeting (no meeting July 5th at the Botanic Gardens).

Our Chapter has agreed to provide the refreshments (Dallas chapter will provide the drinks) so please contact Dagmar Higgins at 817-496-0543 to volunteer. Expected attendance will be at least 150 individuals. We would like to encourage carpooling with possible gathering point at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens and at the Target at Eastchase and I-30.

This event is sponsored by Texas Discovery Gardens, The Native Plant Society of Texas, Dallas Chapter and the North Central Chapter.

The Texas Discovery Gardens (formerly The Dallas Horticulture Center) are located in Fair Park, 3601 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75315.

The schedule is as follows:

8:30 a.m.  
Refreshments

8:45 a.m.  
Tour the Benny Simpson native plant collection at the Texas Discovery Gardens with Tina Dombrowski, Director of Horticulture at the Gardens.

10:00 a.m.  
Jill Nokes will give a presentation titled, "The Challenges of a Native Plant Nursery". She will be signing her recently revised 2nd edition of How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest, published by University of Texas Press. Copies of her book will be available for purchase.

This event is free to the public so invite everyone!

For more information, contact:  
Georgia Prakash, 972-259-2020, [prakash2@airmail.net](mailto:prakash2@airmail.net), Gailon Hardin, 817-457-4703, [ghardin@flash.net](mailto:ghardin@flash.net), or visit NPSOT's web site at [www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org) and click on Chapter Events. For directions to the Texas Discovery Gardens, dial 214-428-7476, \*50.

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## **Demo Garden News**

### Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse

Our monthly work day will be Saturday, June 9, 2001 from 8 am to noon. Come one, come all and help keep the garden free of weeds and help make it ready for the Fall Garden Tour. For new members you can learn how to maintain and grow native plants and there are always escapees for the taking that need good homes. Join the Granbury Road Raiders and get involved. 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 Wednesday of the month 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 a workday on Saturday, June 9 from 9:00-NOON. If you would like more information, contact Molly Hollar at 817.860.5580.

## What's Happening . . .

**Thursday, June 7**

**7:00 PM**

**Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**

**NPSOT North Central Chapter Meeting.** This month, come hear Judith Dyess, Rangeland Management Specialist with the USDA Forest Service on the Caddo and LBJ National Grasslands in Decatur, Texas speaking on "Public Land Management for Native Species". Contact Helena van Heiningen, President, at 817.244.5338 for further information.

**Saturday, June 9**

**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.

**Saturday, June 9**

**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.

**Saturday, June 16**

**8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Lake Ray Roberts**

You won't want to miss this fantastic fieldtrip opportunity! The event will be led by Jeff Quayle, specifically to Isle du Bois State Park on the south side of the lake. The lake is situated north of Dallas and Denton, located west of Highway 377 near Pilot Point north of Denton, and east of I-35 near Sanger. This lake encompasses 3 counties - Denton, Cooke, and Grayson. The area we will visit is at Isle du Bois State Park. The entrance is on FM 455, which runs east and west from I-35 and Highway 377. Meet at 9:00 am at the park entrance. The park entrance is located approximately 1/2 mile east of the dam. If you'd like to carpool, please meet at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant at the corner of I-35W and Meacham Blvd, approximately 1/2 mile south of Loop 820 near Meacham Field. We will leave from there at 8:00 am. Expect about a 1 hour drive to the lake. For more information or directions, contact Jeff Quayle: [prairielover@bigfoot.com](mailto:prairielover@bigfoot.com), (817) 738-1322 hm, (817) 729-0283 mobile.

Some plant species flowering in June will be: Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Indian Hemp, or Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*), Ashy Sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*), Giant Coneflower (*Rudbeckia maxima*), Yellow Compassplant (*Silphium laciniatum*), Rough Stem Rosenweed (*Silphium radula*), Spotted St. John's Wort (*Hypericum punctatum*), Eastern Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), White Prairie Clover (*Dalea candida*), and Narrowleaf Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*). Also expect to see a rare plant, usually known only from the Paris area, or from SE and S Texas along the coast.

**Saturday June 30**

**10:00 AM**

**Texas Discovery Gardens, Fair Park**

This joint meeting of the Dallas and North Central Chapters will feature Jill Nokes on "The Challenges of a Native Plant Nursery". She is the author of [How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest](#), published by University of Texas Press. Copies of the newest edition of the book will be available for purchase and signing by the author. Please see the article titled "Native Plant Seminar" on the preceding page for additional information. Don't miss this event!

**Thursday, July 5**

**Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**

Due to the joint meeting (with the Dallas chapter and our own) held on June 30 there will be no meeting of the North Central Chapter in July. But don't forget to come back on August 2nd!

## Plant of the Month Salvia greggii

**Latin Name:** Salvia greggii

**Common Name:** Autumn Sage

**Landscape Zone:** 7 - 8

**Size:** 1 –3 feet

**Leaves:** Nearly evergreen

**Flowers:** Flowers from spring until first frost. Clusters of one-inch tubular flowers available in red, pink, white and coral.

**Soil:** Adaptable, well drained

**Exposure:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Drought tolerant



(Photo courtesy of Texas SmartScape CD-ROM)

This month's plant of the month, *Salvia greggii*, is one of the best. It has been available commercially for many years, even before the idea of using native Texas plants in a garden setting became popular. *Salvia* is a member of the Sage family and has wonderful aromatic foliage. It is a joy to prune and trim which enables you to fully enjoy its aromatic qualities. *Salvia greggii* is adaptable but must have good drainage. If you have heavy clay soils be sure to incorporate some grit, sand or gravel. This plant puts on a wonderful show from spring to first frost and the key to repeat blooming is to trim it to just below the flower stalks with shears or individually if you have the patience after each flush of flowers. I like to cut it back by about half in the early spring to prevent it from getting old and woody however, I find that they lose their vigor after several years. I usually then replace the plants. *Salvia greggii* is generally available in red, pink, white and coral. I have a blue one that I purchased at a specialty nursery last year. Despite being a beautiful color it seems to lack strength and vigor. Anyone is welcome to stop by my garden to take cuttings if you would like to try something a little different.

Happy Gardening!

Stephen P. Haydon

(This month's raffle prize will be a large specimen Cherry Laurel!)

## Garden Tour Update

### **NPSOT North Central Chapter Garden Tour**

The garden tour committee has been working hard and plans are well under way for our first public garden tour. Due to recent developments the final date for the tour is still undecided. We are debating Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> vs Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

There are still a few details to be finalized, but the outline as it stands at the moment is that we have secured Andy Wasowski to launch the tour with a lecture at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden on the morning of Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. We are delighted that the Fort Worth Botanic Garden will be partnering with us and donating the use of their auditorium. We are pleased they are enthusiastic and supportive of our mission.

The Fort Worth Water District has kindly donated 300 copies of the newly released CD "Texas SmartScape" which encourages the use of native Texas plants as garden plants. The CD features a database of over 200 plants, over half of which are native Texas plants, and the remainder are plants that are well adapted to this area. We are making these CD's available to the people that attend Andy Wasowski's lecture.

The garden committee toured over 20 gardens and had a tough job selecting the final eight! The eight gardens are centered in two geographical locations, Southwest Fort Worth and North Richland Hills. The gardens repre-

sent a variety of landscape styles and all feature native Texas plants.

The committee is now soliciting monetary donations from sponsors and advertisers to cover the cost of the event. It is hoped that the event will generate funds for the educational endeavors of our chapter in the coming year.

Tickets for the tour will be available at local retailers in advance and at each garden on the day of the tour. The admission fee per person will be \$8.00 in advance or \$10.00 the day of the tour. This fee will include admission to the lecture and a resource guidebook.

### ***Volunteers Needed!***

The Master Gardeners recently held a fund raising garden tour featuring 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 and friends to help with this ambitious project. We need at least 80 volunteers to help at the gardens the day of the tour. The volunteers will not miss out on the tour as we will organize a special free preview tour for the homeowners and volunteers the week before the actual event. Please call Janan Rabiah and Stephen Haydon at (817) 924-3378 or email them at [sphir1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:sphir1@ix.netcom.com) to sign up now.

## From our Man in the Field

### **05/28/01**

In a previous email, I mentioned going to Stella Rowan prairie with Kip Kiphart, from the North Texas Master Naturalist, and Bob O'Kennon, from BRIT. Over the weekend I was told by Bob that one of the plants that we found on the prairie was Wild Garlic (*Allium vineale*). It has been determined, after research at BRIT, that this is a new species for Texas. It is unknown if this is the first Texas collection, but close anyhow.

Also, Fluttermill, or Missouri Primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa* subsp. *incana*) was found. This is a rare subspecies, usually only known from west Texas. It can be distinguished from the common Missouri Primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa* subsp. *macrocarpa*) by the conspicuously gray-hairy pubescence. Be on the lookout for this subspecies in other north Texas prairies. Common Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) was also found, although not a native.

### **05/23/01**

I spent this morning with Kip Kiphart from the North Texas Master Naturalists, and Bob O'Kennon of BRIT at the Stella Rowan prairie in south Ft. Worth. About 38 species were added to the list, bringing the total species to approximately 327 species.

Afterwards, after lunch, Bob and I headed to west Arlington near Kennedale to look at *Baptisia nuttalliana*, then on to Weatherford to look at my collection of Turnip-Root Scurf Pea (*Pediomelum cyphocalyx*) from last week, south of I-20. We then headed from Weatherford to Springtown on Highway 51, in search of *Pediomelum cyphocalyx*, *Pediomelum reverchonii*, *Psoralidium tenuiflorum*, *Dalea reverchonii*, and *Minuartia michauxii* var. *texana*. All were found except the *Psoralidium tenuiflorum*. We also found *Talinum calycinum*, but it wasn't flowering.

Other plants found on the way back to Ft. Worth were *Asclepias oenotheroides*, *Centaurium texense*, *Tetragonotheca ludoviciana*, *Gaillardia aestivalis* var. *flavovirens*, *Galactia canescens*, *Stylisma pickeringii* var. *pattersonii*, *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Solidago nitida*, *Lithospermum caroliniense*, *Yucca necopina*, *Polypremum procumbens*, *Dalea pheloides* var. *microphylla*, *Rhynchosia latifolia*, *Polygonella americana*, *Talinum parviflorum*, and *Prunus gracilis*. Not all of these were flowering.

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### Next Meeting

Joint meeting with Dallas chapter, June 30, Texas Discovery Gardens, Fair Park. See inside for more information!

### 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 membership renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	___ Student	\$15
	___ 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:

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### The Texas Sage

is a monthly publication of the North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

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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