



THE TEXAS SAGE

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Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 11

November 2001

President's Corner . . .

Dear Members:

The holidays are fast approaching and we are reminded once again to give thanks for our many, many blessings. Speaking for myself and I suspect others, we often take basics for granted. I encourage you to share the holidays with your loved ones and friends and also open your hearts to strangers who are less fortunate. There are any number of ways to share your wealth from a smile, or kind words, to donations of time and support.

As we reflected back on 2001 for the NPSOT Chapter Report, we listed numbers of ways that, we as a chapter, have touched the community. We are including this document in this newsletter (on page 2) for your review and to give you a sense of pride. As we prepare for 2002, I solicit your input and contributions.

What are your expectations of the North Central NPSOT chapter ?

How can we improve ?

What are we doing that you really appreciate ?

Have you heard an exciting speaker or attended a program that you would like us to arrange for our members ?

Any other questions you'd like to ask or answer ?

ship of fellow native plant lovers. If you thought the plant exchange was fun, wait until the progressive gift exchange at our next meeting. We have lots of fun and hope you will join us.

Many thanks for the anonymous donation of \$220.00 to defray the cost of the newsletter for two months. The cost of the chapter newsletter is sponsored locally and a committee will be formed to solicit sponsors for the publication of the newsletter. While we are getting started in this endeavor, the two months donation will enable the committee to get organized and move forward. THANK YOU for the generous donation. Please contact Helena if you are willing to head up the committee for local newsletter sponsorship.

From the officers and committee chairs we wish you Happy Thanksgiving.

Helena

(Remember NO JANUARY MEETING!!!)

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NEXT MEETING: Remember to bring a pot luck dish and gift for exchange on December 6th. But come anyway with or without food or gift and enjoy the friend-

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS
NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER
ACTIVITY REPORT 2000-2001**

The North Central chapter holds meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center. Our year begins in January with a progressive gift exchange and potluck dinner. Other meetings include presentations by speakers and refreshments. Our chapter has 73 members. Average monthly attendance is 35. Our mission is to promote the conservation, research and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas, through education, outreach and example.

EDUCATION 2000-2001

- Speaker's Bureau – Presented an average of two programs per month in the community on native plants
- Monthly programs – Ten programs on horticulture, environment, Cross Timbers history, landscape design and public land management
- Field Trips – Five field trips representing Cross Timbers woods, prairie, butterfly gardening and Benny Simpson's collection
- Newsletter – Various articles including plant of the month, calendar, and updates on events

Programs at Southwest Regional Library for the public

- Seedball demonstration
- Butterfly program

Maintain Three Demonstration Gardens

- Southwest Regional Library, Fort Worth
 - Contracted the Tarrant County Master Gardeners for maintenance
 - Bulletin board exhibit inside library
- Tarrant County Sub-Courthouse, Granbury Road, Fort Worth
 - Working on contract with Tarrant County Master Gardeners for maintenance
- Wildscape, Veterans Park, Arlington
 - Contracted the Tarrant County Master Gardeners for maintenance
 - Planted new pavilion, boardwalk and riparian waterfall area – 2 ½ acres
 - Installed bioswale with EPA grant
 - Received WRAY grant for 30 understory trees to be planted in fall
 - Partnered with City of Arlington greenhouse facility to propagate natives for Wildscape and other City facilities

OUTREACH 2000-2001

Publicize monthly meetings in local newspaper

- Speaker's Bureau – Members present an average of two programs per month to community organizations on Texas native plants. Bulletin board exhibit of demonstration garden inside Southwest Regional Library

Programs at Southwest Regional Library

- Wildflower seedball demonstration
- Butterfly program
- Planning educational programs with elementary schools at the library
- Installing mailbox to contain handouts on native plant gardening

Three Demonstration Gardens

Upcoming Native Plant Garden Tour October 13-14, 2001

Held first joint meeting with neighboring Dallas chapter.

Chapter web page – www.txnativeplants.org

EXAMPLE 2000-2001

Probably the most exciting example was that the North Central Chapter's expertise and willingness to work induced the City of Arlington to open its greenhouse facilities to NPSOT volunteers. Volunteers collect seeds and cuttings, and work almost daily propagating natives to be planted in the Wildscape. A plant sale this fall is also anticipated. The Wildscape shares half the plants with the City for use in other parks and municipal facilities. This definitely indicates a change in the City's landscaping philosophy regarding the use of native plants in its parks and municipal facilities.

What's Happening . . .

Saturdays, December 1, and January 5 9:00 AM - NOON Veterans Park Wildscape, Arlington
 Volunteer Workday at the Veterans Park Wildscape. There will be planting of plants propagated in the Randol Mill Park greenhouse, gathering seed, weeding, cutting back plants, etc. Please bring trowels, small shovels, gloves, etc. Refreshments will be provided. 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, December 6 7:00 PM Fort Worth Botanic Gardens
NPSOT North Central Chapter Meeting. Please join us for a potluck dinner and progressive gift exchange. We are moving the gift exchange up one month and will not be having a January meeting. Contact Helena van Heiningen, President, at 817.244.5338 for further information.

Saturday, December 8 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Weatherford
 There will be a all day fieldtrip led by Jeff Quayle to some Weatherford area natural areas, including Lake Weatherford (near Willow Park), Cartwright Park, and Soldier Springs Park. Access is limited at Lake Weatherford, due to leased and private land, with some public land. But still some good examples of Western Cross Timbers habitats. Cartwright Park has excellent examples of bottomland hardwood forests. Soldier Springs Park is a excellent example of a limestone prairie remnant. Discussions will include identification of plants during the off season, basics of seed collection, and how to do plant rescues during the fall and winter.
 Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear. Meet in the parking lot of Best Buy and Albertson's, at the NE corner of Green Oaks Road and I-30 in west Ft. Worth. Go to the SW corner of the parking lot to park and congregate. We will leave from there at 8:30 am. We will stop in Weatherford for lunch. This will probably last all day, getting back to Ft. Worth by 5 pm, with an option to leave early, for those needing to get back. Please RSVP to Jeff by December 6th, at prairielover@bigfoot.com, or by phone at (817) 729-0283.

Thursday, January 18 7:00 PM 8020 Llano Ave, Benbrook
 Please note: there will be no board meeting in December! Come join us for the North Central Chapter's montly board meeting, open to all members. The meeting will be held at the home of our President, Helena van Heiningen. Please call 817.244.5338 for additional information or directions.

Saturday, February 23, 2002 Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin
 NPSOT along with the Wildflower Center will sponsor a workshop on Saturday, February 23, 2002. The subject will be "restoration" of native habitat. We will have a few speakers and probably a panel discussion. We may have one or two short (20 minutes) programs on restoration projects in progress or recently completed. Matt Welch of Nacogdoches (SFA) suggested we have Chapters that have these projects display a story board of their project. So, are any Chapters interested in having such a display at the event? This would work like our Chapter Activities tables at the annual meeting. Would all Chapter contacts please announce this event at future meetings. Please let me hear your ideas. Thanks. Glenn Olsen hgolsen8@hal-pc.org 281-345-4151

Plant of the Month **Rusty Blackhaw**

Latin Name: Viburnum rufidulum

Landscape Zone: 6 - 8

Size: 10 – 30 feet

Leaves: Deciduous with red, yellow fall color

Flowers: March – April, flat topped clusters of white flowers

Fruit: July – October, bluish, black drupes

Soil: Adaptable, well drained

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Water: Drought tolerant

This wonderful little tree has four seasons of interest making it a worthy plant for any garden or landscape. Beautiful white flowers in the spring, glossy green leaves in the summer, excellent fall color, and beautiful bark for winter interest, plus the birds love the conspicuous bluish, black fruits. It is commonly found as an under story tree but tends to develop a rather lanky and gangly form under these conditions. It develops into a nicer specimen when planted in good light.

Rusty Blackhaws are difficult to propagate and slow growing; consequently, they are difficult to find in the nursery trade. If you come across one be sure to snap it up. I have seen large specimen ball and burlapped Rusty Blackhaws at nurseries in our area; however, I know these plants to have been “raped” from native habitat. I don’t condone this practice unless it is a rescue situation, which is not the case with much of the nursery stock. So hold out for a nice container grown specimen if you can.

Stephen P. Haydon

Newsletter Contributors Needed

Stephen Haydon has been contributing "Plant of the Month" for the past year and unfortunately next month will be the last in his series. We feel it is important that our newsletter contain articles of interest other than current events relating to our group. If you would like to write "Plant of the Month" or have other interests relating to native plants and feel you could pen a few words each month or even for just one month your fellow native plant enthusiasts would appreciate it. Please contact Janan Rabiah (817) 924-3378 or jrabiah@ix.netcom.com or Victoria Neal (817) 361-0455 or victoriavery@att.net if you can help us out.

2002 Officers

We are pleased to report that all of our current officers have agreed to continue in their present positions. We will hold voting for them at our December meeting.

President—Helena van Heiningen

Vice-President and Program Chairperson—Gailon Hardin

Treasurer—Alan Klein

Secretary—Jeanie Browning

Historian—Ev Woodrey

Refreshment Chairperson—Dagmar Higgins

Education Chairperson—Sharon Wood

Welcome Chairperson—Carolyn Kohls

Webmaster—Michele May

Reporter From the Field—Jeff Quayle

Newsletter
Janan Rabiah and Vickie Neal

Native Plant Outreach

Gailon Hardin gave two programs last month on "Native Plants in the Mixed Border" to the Organic Gardening Friends in Cleburne and the Arlington Garden Club in Arlington.

Thanks to Gailon and Ev Woodrey for making these programs possible and helping to educate the public about the benefits of native plants.

Demo Garden News

Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse

Watch this space for information on our next workday! Contact Helena van Heiningen at 817.244.5338 for additional information about this garden.

Hulen Library

We meet at the garden for grooming and maintenance work on the last Thursday of the month, October through April at 10 a.m. Contact Ev Woodrey at 817.295.4683 for additional information.

Veterans Park Wildscape

There will be workdays on Saturday, December 1 and January 5 from 9:00 am—noon. If you would like more information, contact Molly Hollar at 817.860.5580 or see Page 3 for additional details.

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Native Plant Society of Texas
North Central Chapter
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3316 West Biddison
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 6 at
7PM at the Fort Worth
Botanic Gardens for the Pot
Luck and Progressive
Exchange

Visit us on the Web at
www.txnativeplants.org

Join the Native Plant Society of Texas!

We invite you to participate as a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Membership is open to any individual, family or organization. Membership is renewable annually and extends for a year from the date we receive your original payment.

If you wish to join, please indicate your category of membership then clip and mail this application along with the appropriate remittance to:

Native Plant Society of Texas
P.O. Box 891, Georgetown, Texas 78627
(512)868-8799 phone or (512)931-1166

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Group	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor	\$1000

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

County _____

Phone: _____

Chapter Affiliation _____

e-mail: _____

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 15th of every month.

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