



# THE TEXAS SAGE

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter  
Vol. 14 No. 7  
August 2002

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## Contents

President's Corner .....	1
Urgent Help Request .....	2
Demo Garden News .....	2
What's Happening.....	3
Plant of the Month.....	4
Garden Cuttings.....	5

## President's Corner

Dear Members and Friends:

In June we had the delightful pleasure of hearing Jim Eidson from The Nature Conservancy, Texas Chapter. Texas is 2/3 grasslands with unlimited horizons, possibilities and resources...you can see a thunderstorm 40 miles away. The conservancy has protection rights for only 360,000 acres but a total of 600,000 acres is protected by a combined coalition with other agencies. The prairie is an ancient landscape, the last of the Ice Age and Clymer Meadow serves as the baseline.

In the 1820's people thought the prairie was not fertile because there were no trees. In spite of that, woodland people still tried to settle there. By 1880 50% of the land was cultivated for cotton production and cattle, signaling the end of the Black Land Prairie. By 1920, 80-90% was plowed up for cultivation and the prairie was lost. Only 1/100% or 4-5000 acres were left of the original land.

The Nature Conservancy and other agencies continue their work to correct the damage. Check out their web site at <http://nature.org> for more information.

On June 29, a joint meeting was held with the Dallas Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Our speaker was Lou Verner, Ph. D, from the Texas Parks and Wildlife office at Cedar Hill. Dr. Verner entertained us with many Far Side cartoons while we learned about "Alien Space Invaders". We were guided through the discovery of what is Alien vs. Native; Invasive vs. Non-invasive, and why we should be concerned. Not all aliens are invasive and not all invasives are aliens!!

Most invasive species we learned, are actually from Europe, Asia or Africa and because there are no natural enemies they thrive and become dominant displacing the native spe-

cies. Dr. Verner provided a listing that had many plants that we are familiar with. The cost to control this problem is 100 million dollars annually.

As Dr. Verner continued, we became more aware of the enormous impact when the biodiversity is changed. Once the invasive plant species takes control not only the vegetation, but the entire living native habitat is jeopardized.

- Invasive species contribute to the decline of 46% of the imperiled or endangered species in the U.S.
- Invasives can hurt the economy by causing losses in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, clogging waterways and fueling fires.
- Their cost to the national economy has been estimated as high as \$137 billion per year, and it is increasing.

What can you do?

- Don't buy exotics - plant native species
- Remove non-native plants from your landscape
- Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to do the same
- Inform nurseries not to stock invasive plants
- Help local organizations recognize and eliminate alien invasives
- Support legislation that supports these principles
- Become knowledgeable and visit web sites like [www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu](http://www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu) or [www.weedcenter.org](http://www.weedcenter.org)

Helena

## Thanks Very Much!

All the following people deserve major thanks for bringing great food to the June joint meeting: Pat Lovejoy, Elaine Couch, Berry Boch, Jeanie Browning, Carol Harshaw, Joann Karges, Mike McCorkhill, Vicki Brady, and Helena van Heiningen (who also brought lots of festive decorations).-- Thanks, Dagmar

## Urgent Appeal to Save Outdoor Learning Center

(excerpted from an e-mail message)

We are fighting a losing battle with our school district over the closing of our thirty year old Outdoor Learning Center. Our 228 acre wildlife refuge and award-winning education center has been deemed a "non instructional, non academic and non-essential program". Unbelievable as we have master teachers, an environmental science teacher and 2 Master Naturalists who connect the outdoor experience to classroom curriculum for over 70,000 FWISD students every year for thirty years. These urban city kids need this connection to nature now more than ever. Please help me get the word out. You can email our school board members [www.fortworthisd.org](http://www.fortworthisd.org). Click on the "Board of Education" link then the "Meet the Board" link. to see board member names and e-mail addresses or see below. Tell them how important it is to save the OLC or Truelson Hightower Outdoor Learning Center. Thanks for all your help, Kathy Cash

Rose Herrera - Acting President, District 1 [district1@fortworthisd.org](mailto:district1@fortworthisd.org)

T. A. Sims - Secretary, District 4 [district4@fortworthisd.org](mailto:district4@fortworthisd.org)

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## Demo Garden News

### Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse

We will meet at the Granbury Road Sub Courthouse the last Tuesday of the month (July 30) for general maintenance. The garden depicts how the homeowner can landscape residential property with less maintenance and be environmentally friendly. We will begin at 8:30 AM and work for two or three hours. Please bring pruners, hedgers, gloves, loppers, and your favorite weeding tool. We will start cutting back the *Salvia greggii* so electric hedgers and 150' of electric cord would be helpful. The sub courthouse is located two miles south of Loop 820 on Granbury Road. Contact Gailon Hardin at 817.457.4703 [ghardin@flash.net](mailto:ghardin@flash.net) or Helena van Heiningen 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 at 8:00 a.m., other days as needed. Contact Ev Woodrey at 817.295.4683 for additional information.

### Veterans Park Wildscape

Workdays are on the first Saturday of every month from 9:00-NOON. Maintenance activities include planting, gathering seed, weeding, pruning, etc. If you would like more information, contact Molly Hollar at 817.860.5580.

## What's Happening . . .

**Tuesday, July 30**

**8:30 AM**

**Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse**

We will meet at the Granbury Road Sub Courthouse the last Tuesday of the month (July 30) for general maintenance. The garden depicts how the homeowner can landscape residential property with less maintenance and be environmentally friendly. We will begin at 8:30 AM and work for two or three hours. Please bring pruners, hedgers, gloves, loppers, and your favorite weeding tool. We will start cutting back the *Salvia greggii* so electric hedgers and 150' of electric cord would be helpful. The sub courthouse is located two miles south of Loop 820 on Granbury Road. Contact Gailon Hardin at 817.457.4703 [ghardin@flash.net](mailto:ghardin@flash.net) or Helena van Heiningen 817.244.5338 for additional information about this garden.

**Thursday, August 1**

**7:00 PM**

**Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**

**NPSOT North Central Chapter Meeting.** Come and hear Jay Mertz teach us about Organic Gardening. For additional information call Gailon Hardin at 817.457.4703 [ghardin@flash.net](mailto:ghardin@flash.net) or Helena van Heiningen at 817.244.5338 [hvanhein@aol.com](mailto:hvanhein@aol.com).

**Saturday, August 3**

**9:00 AM - NOON**

**Veterans Park Wildscape, Arlington**

Volunteer Workday at the Veterans Park Wildscape. Activities will include planting, gathering seed, weeding, cutting back plants, etc. Please bring trowels, small shovels, gloves, etc. 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, August 29**

**8:00 PM**

**Hulen Library**

We 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.

**Thursday, September 5**

**7:00 PM**

**Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**

**NPSOT North Central Chapter Meeting.** Come and hear John Snowden of Bluestem Nursery speak on *Native Grasses*. For additional information call Gailon Hardin at 817.457.4703 [ghardin@flash.net](mailto:ghardin@flash.net) or Helena van Heiningen at 817.244.5338 [hvanhein@aol.com](mailto:hvanhein@aol.com).

**Saturdays, Sept. 14 and Nov. 9**

**9:00 AM**

**LBJ National Grasslands**

Botanical Inventories at the USDA LBJ National Grasslands. Meet at the LBJ National Grasslands office on Highway 81/287, ½ mile north of 287 and Loop 380. We will select several grasslands units to inventory plants. Directions: From I-35 and Loop 820, go north on I-35, then west on Highway 287 to Decatur. Please RSVP to Jeff Quayle at 817.729.0283 or [prairielover@bigfoot.com](mailto:prairielover@bigfoot.com).

**Saturday, September 21**

**9:00 AM**

**Bluestem Nursery**

Field trip to Bluestem Nursery led by its owner (and our September speaker), John Snowden. See, feel and smell those native grasses up close! More details to follow.

**Thursday, October 3**

**7:00 PM**

**Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**

This month's North Central Chapter Meeting will be our Annual Progressive Plant Swap. If you've never been to one of our plant swaps, please attend. This newsletter editor can promise that this is an eventful evening! More details to follow.

**Saturday, October 12**

**9:00 AM**

**Mineral Wells State Park**

Botanical Inventories at Mineral Wells State Park Trailway. We will start from the Weatherford Trailhead, with access by vehicle to the trail. The goal is to inventory half of the 15 mile trail system every 2 months. Directions: From Ft. Worth, take I-30, then I-20 west to Weatherford, taking the 80/180 exit. Continue on to Weatherford to the courthouse. Turn right and go north on Highway 51 and turn left on FM 920. Go a couple of miles and turn left on Cartwright Park Road, turning left at the sign for Lake Mineral Wells State Park Trailway. The trail fee will be waived. Please RSVP to Jeff Quayle at 817.729.0283 or [prairielover@bigfoot.com](mailto:prairielover@bigfoot.com).

## Plant of the Month Indian Pink

**Latin Name:** *Spigelia marilandica* (spye-JEE-lee-ah mare-uh-LAN-dee-kah)

**Bloom Period:** Late Spring; can be prolonged by removing spent flowers

**Size:** 1-2 ft. tall

**Leaves:** Dark green and glossy, dying back in August

**Flowers:** 2" across, red tubular lined with yellow inside

**Soil:** Sand, loam; acid

**Exposure:** Dappled or part shade

**Water:** Moist, well drained

**Native to:** East Texas, Maryland to Missouri to Gulf of Mexico

This perennial is for those living in the sandy soil region of the Eastern Cross Timbers. It will need extra water in the drought of summer. It forms a compact mound with showy flowers, blooming one at a time on erect stems and well adapted for the ruby throated hummingbird.

This plant has just been added to our garden since we have sandy soil. I will be able to report on it more thoroughly by next year. I can tell you it is a lovely plant.

Evaline Woodrey

### The Connemara Conservancy

This is a farsighted effort begun 22 years ago to preserve ranchland and is helping landowners in North Texas to provide a land bank for future generations. This is needed because 90 % of the states land is in private hands. Connemara meadow sit in the Frisco-Allen area and is open to the public. To learn more about land conservation options call 214-351-0990.

Submitted by Evaline Woodrey  
(excerpted from an article in the *Dallas Morning News*)

## Garden Cuttings

All I can say is that you have not prayed hard enough for rain. All of you in good standing with the Lord should ask for that favor now. The rest of us will have to brush up on our rain dancing skills.

At this point in the year, there is really not much to do other than water, dead-head spent blooms and record observations to make a better garden. Look at those plant combinations that are "lacking" and decide what needs to be moved where and what needs to be omitted or added this fall or next spring.

If you are planning a new garden, now is the time to eradicate noxious perennial weeds with Round-up or solarization. By fall, the area should be ready to amend and plant.

Check your mulch layer to see if it is adequate. A continual layer of mulch at a depth of 3 to 4 inches around shrubs and trees and a depth of 2 to 3 inches around perennials and groundcovers will help conserve water and money.

If the daytime temperatures are too hot for you to work in the garden, try working at night under the beam of a battery-powered spelunker's head light, which can be purchased at any good camping supply store. The garden should "take on a whole new light".

-Jim Leavy

Reprinted from *The Texas Sage*, August 1998

### Help Needed

Howdy Folks,

I got a call from Betty Minshew with Grand Prairie parks and recreation again this morning. She is really needing a Master Naturalist (or a similar willing volunteer) to develop an interpretive program for a trail that they have built at Lloyd Park at Joe Pool lake. She's looking for a general, family oriented, interesting-facts kind of program that volunteers can use to take the public on hikes this fall. I know that many folks are on vacation this time of year, so I am sending this to several people. Please spread this message to whom-ever you feel would be most interested. The Parks Dept. would like to have a volunteer develop the program, but may have a little money to pay someone if it comes to that.

The contact information is: Betty Minshew, [bminshew@gptx.org](mailto:bminshew@gptx.org), 972-237-8462

Thanks for considering helping her out!

John M. Davis  
Urban Biologist  
Tx. Parks and Wildlife Dept.  
PO Box 941, Cedar Hill TX. 75106  
972-293-3841  
[jmdavis01@aol.com](mailto:jmdavis01@aol.com)

### Report Smoking Vehicles

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has a program to report polluters (smoking vehicles). You can call 1-800-453-SMOG to make a report, or you can go to their website and make a report, using their online reporting form. See below. I see many smoking vehicles in the Fort Worth area, and am beginning to report them.

Submitted by Jeff Quayle

<http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/air/ms/smokingvehicles.html>

## 6 The Texas Sage

North Central Chapter  
Native Plant Society of Texas  
Chapter President  
8020 Llano Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX 76116

### Next Meeting

Join us, Thursday, September 5, at 7:00 PM at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens to hear John Snowden on *Native Grasses*

Visit us on the Web at

[www.txnativeplants.org](http://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: North Central Chapter

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 the newsletter editor.

The deadline for submitting articles for inclusion in next month's newsletter is the 15th of every month.

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