



THE TEXAS SAGE

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Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter

Vol. 14 No. 1

January 2002

President's Corner . . .

Dear Members:

On the first Thursday in December, a small and friendly group of native plant lovers met to enjoy a potluck dinner and progressive gift exchange. We discussed future speakers and programs and also opened up a discussion on what the organization was doing well and where improvements could be made. While we attempt to bring in new speakers it was agreed that it is always educational to invite previously heard speakers to return and share information with new members and tell us about current changes or ideas that were not previously presented. The Program Chairperson is finalizing the 2002 program calendar now, so don't be shy about making recommendations. By the way, the gift exchange took place with no apparent casualties.

Discussions turned to the Garden Tour, kudos were exchanged and we all affirmed that this was truly an exceptional event for the chapter. Comments such as: "very well organized", "educational and informative tour guides", and "strong garden design" were expressed unanimously. The first North Central Garden Tour was led by the dynamic duo of Janan Rabiah and Stephen Haydon whose energy and vision led the team and chapter to a great success. THANK YOU Janan and Stephen. The 2001 tour planning and organization has been extensively documented and will serve as a template for the future. If you would like to volunteer to be the chairperson for the next tour, please let me know.

The Nominating Committee announced that the existing slate of officers has agreed to serve one more year. Carolyn Kohls made the motion to accept the nomination and it was seconded by Elaine Couch. The officers for 2002 are:

President – Helena van Heiningen
Vice-President and Program Chairperson – Gailon Hardin
Secretary – Jeanie Browning
Treasurer – Alan Klein

Thank you to all the officers for serving this

past year and accepting the challenge for one more year. It is not too early to be thinking about stepping forward yourself to take an active role in making the chapter vital and active in the community. Don't wait to be asked to serve.

The team of Mike and Ev Woodrey will be tackling the "Plant of the Month" column for the coming year.

One of our goals is to educate and inform the community. There are several opportunities in January and February to do just that.

The members voted to have an educational booth at the **Spring House & Organic Gardening Show with Howard Garrett**, January 11-13, 2002 at the Arlington Convention Center. The show features hundreds of displays on organic gardening, landscaping and home products. This will be the very first organic gardening show ever held in the Metroplex and will introduce organic and environmental aspects that have never before been presented. Howard Garrett, Malcolm Beck and other organic experts will be giving detailed seminars and slide shows. This will enable us to reach the community with information and to share our enthusiasm for native plants. Your help and support is needed to volunteer at the booth. Call Helena (817-244-5338) to select a work time.

The **Fort Worth Home and Garden Show** occurs both in February and March. These are also wonderful opportunities to reach out to the public. In fact, it was at one of these shows where I first became aware and interested in native plants. Details will be provided in the next newsletter. Mark your calendars for February 15-17 and March 15-17.

Last but not least, Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. And to all, wishes for a safe and healthful holiday with friends and family.

Helena

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Our Member is Honored

Ev Woodrey received the Perennial appreciation award presented by the Master Gardener's Association. Ev was cited as a "member whose commitment surprises us year after year. This award represents the member who displays community spirit, teaching, longevity and caring for the Association." Congratulations Ev, you are also a valued member of our organization where you exhibit the same strong sense of commitment!

Ev's Salad Recipe

(And, she can cook, too!) Due to overwhelming public demand, here is the recipe for that terrific salad Ev Woodrey brought to last month's pot luck meeting:

SALAD:

2 heads broccoli (or 1/2 & 1/2 cauliflower)
8 slices cooked bacon, crumbled
1 cup slivered almonds, toasted
1 cup golden raisins
1 red onion cut into rings and halved

DRESSING:

(Prepare 24 hours in advance. Remove dressing from fridge 30 minutes prior to tossing salad.)
1 cup mayo
1/3 cup sugar
2 tsp. white vinegar

Add almonds and bacon just before serving and toss all together with dressing.

State Membership Information Reminder

Beginning with the February 2002 newsletter we will be using the NPSOT state membership list as our mailing list. If you haven't already done so, please join the State organization so you'll continue to receive this and the State's newsletter and continue to educate the public about natives.

All membership forms/renewals should be sent directly to the State organization. You will find a membership form printed on the back of this newsletter.

Demo Garden News

Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse

There will be a workday on Saturday January 12, weather permitting, at the Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse demonstration garden. Please help us to maintain this highly visible garden. Bring clippers and tools to weed and trim. Contact Helena van Heiningen 817.244.5338 for additional information about this garden.

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, January 5 from 9:00-NOON. There will be planting of plants propagated in the Randol Mill Park greenhouse, gathering seed, weeding, pruning, etc. If you would like more information, contact Molly Hollar at 817.860.5580.

What's Happening . . .

- Thursday, January 3** **7:00 PM** **Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**
NPSOT North Central Chapter Meeting. There will be no meeting this month! Take the time to recover from the holidays but be ready to join us in February to start another exciting year!
- Saturday, 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.
- Saturday, January 12** **8:00 AM - NOON** **Granbury Road Demonstration Garden**
 Workday at the Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse demonstration garden (weather permitting). Please help us to maintain this highly visible garden. Bring clippers and tools to weed and trim. Contact Helena van Heiningen at 817.244.5338 for further information.
- Saturday, January 12** **8:45 AM - NOON** **Stella Rowan Prairie**
 Stella Rowan Prairie Workday (Rain out or bad weather date is January 19th). Stella Rowan Prairie is located in south Ft. Worth, near the intersection of I-20 and I-35. From this intersection, go east on I-20 to the Campus Drive exit. Go north on Campus Drive to Raymond Barber Drive at Worth Baptist Church. Turn left and then right at the stop sign. Meet in the first large parking lot on your left. Our project site is within walking distance. The county will provide a couple of workers, plus a county chipper truck, and work release volunteers. We will be removing Eastern Red Cedar, Cedar Elm, Texas Ash, and Privet. Tools needed: chainsaws, loppers, hand saws, and gloves. Please meet in the parking lot at 8:45 AM, we will start at 9:00 AM. Please RSVP by January 10th to Jeff Quayle or Diane Graves Smith.
- Thursday, January 17** **7:00 PM** **8020 Llano Ave, Benbrook**
 Come join us for the North Central Chapter's monthly 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, January 19** **1:00 PM - 4:00 PM** **Fort Worth Nature Center**
 A class on Winter Tree ID will be taught by Suzanne Tuttle at the Ft. Worth Nature Center. "You may know how to identify a tree by its leaves, but what do you do when the leaves fall? During this workshop, we will take about a three mile hike and learn to identify leafless trees and shrubs by their growth habit, bark, twigs and leaf buds." Reservations required. Call the Ft. Worth Nature Center at (817) 237-1111 to reserve a spot.
- Saturday, January 19** **9:00 AM - NOON** **Norbuck Prairie**
 Tour areas of Norbuck Prairie (Dallas - White Rock Lake area), with emphasis on winter plant ID (rosettes, seeds, family characteristics), basics of seed and plant collection, plant rescue techniques, and other topics. Meet in the parking lot near Buckner Blvd and Mockingbird Lane, near the tennis courts. Please RSVP to Jeff Quayle by January 17th at (817) 729-0283, or prairielover@bigfoot.com.
- Thursday, January 24** **8:00 AM** **Southwest Regional 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.
- Saturday, January 26** **9:00 AM** **Lake Buchanan (near Burnet)**
 Day trip for the Bald Eagle Tours on the Vanishing Texas River Cruise. Boat leaves at 9:00 AM, with box lunch included. Adult ticket is \$15.00 plus tax. Please call ahead to reserve a place (1-800-4-RIVER-4). Their website is <http://www.vtrc.com>. Tour is approximately 3-4 hours. This is approximately 3 hours from Dallas/Ft. Worth, so you may need to either leave early Saturday morning, or go down Friday night. Lodging can be found in Waco, Georgetown, or at Lake Buchanan at The Canyon of the Eagles Lodge and Nature Park (1-800-977-0081). Directions: Take I-35 south to Georgetown, then west on Highway 29 to Burnet. Continue west on Highway 29 to Lake Buchanan, then turn right on FM 2341, continue for approximately 14 miles to the entrance on the east shore of the lake.
- Thursday, February 7** **7:00 PM** **Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**
NPSOT North Central Chapter Meeting. Joann Karges is our speaker this month. She will be sharing her vast knowledge of butterflies and how they relate to native plants. Come and be ready to learn from this terrific teacher! Contact Gailon Hardin at 817.457.4703 for further information.
- Saturday, February 9** **8:00 AM - NOON** **Granbury Road Demonstration Garden**
 Workday at the Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse demonstration garden (weather permitting). Please help us to maintain this highly visible garden. Bring clippers and tools to weed and trim. Contact Helena van Heiningen at 817.244.5338 for further information.
- Thursday, February 21** **7:00 PM** **8020 Llano Ave, Benbrook**
 Come join us for the North Central Chapter's monthly 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.

Plant of the Month **Arkansas Rose**

Latin Name: Rosa arkansana

Size: 3 – 4 feet tall and spreading

Leaves: Deciduous

Flowers: Late spring early summer pink single rose two inches across

Fruit: Fall, red one half inch hips

Soil: Sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained

Exposure: Dappled shade, part shade, full sun

Water: Drought tolerant

This native rose is remarkably hardy, disease and insect resistant, and quite drought tolerant. Unlike the roses most of us are familiar with, this one does not form a bush but more of an invasive thicket with the plant quickly spreading by underground running stems. It only flowers once a year with pretty five petal single pink blooms. Despite flowering for only a brief period it has other seasonal interest. Beautiful red hips make a wonderful fall display along with yellow fall foliage and the stems are covered in masses of tiny thorns, which give good winter effect. To keep this plant young and vigorous prune out some of the older stems to encourage new growth. I have this plant growing in light shade where it catches the morning sun and it is doing well. Despite this being a native Texas plant I have found it very difficult to find at local nurseries. The only place I have found it is by mail-order from Forest Farm Nursery in Oregon – www.forestfarm.com or call (541) 846-7269. This plant is not seen often in North Texas gardens but it is definitely worth trying to track it down.

Happy Gardening,
Stephen P. Haydon

I prefer winter and fall,
 when you feel the bone structure in the landscape,
 the loneliness of it,
 the dead feeling of winter.

Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show.

Andrew Wyeth (1917 -) US watercolorist and painter as quoted in The Art of Andrew Wyeth, by Richard Meryman, 1973.



Garden Cuttings by Jim Leavy

If you have not done so already, you are probably asking yourself whether it's time to cut back and tidy up the garden. "To cut or not to cut, that is the question?" Although the dead stems and stalks may be unsightly, and your neighbors may be talking behind your back, remember that one creature's bane is another's food and/or cover. If you have created a diverse and predominately native garden, then you probably have also created a playground for small mammals, birds, insects and reptiles. Seeds from those browning grasses, flowers and bushes provide one of the last remaining food sources for the fauna that have been living in or visiting your garden. The dead or dormant plants also provide a hiding place for those feeding animals, as well as resting sites for those creatures whose body temperatures fluctuate with the ambient air temperature. Those stems and stalks may also be the resting sites for butterflies' or beneficial insects' eggs. In short, the longer you wait to cut back the garden, the longer wildlife benefits.

When you finally do tidy up the garden, it will be a good time to mulch the beds to keep the soil's temperature from fluctuating wildly. Some of you have to purchase the mulch, but those of you who have trees are already blessed with nature's best...leaves. The problem is that if you don't save your leaves now, when it comes time to put your beds to sleep for the winter, there won't be any in sight. If you have a lawnmower or mulcher, take all those leaves piling up in your driveway, shred them and either bag 'em or pile 'em for later when you are ready to mulch. In January or February dump those shredded leaves back on top of the garden and rake them out to a layer four to six inches thick. In the Spring, rake back the leaves to expose the crowns of your perennials. Extra leaves can be composted and, one way or another, be used in the garden. There's almost nothing better than leaf mulch for your plants.

Until next month, garden smart.
 (reprinted from *The Texas Sage*, January 1998)

Butterflies in the Garden

The Fort Worth Botanical Society, the Fort Worth Garden Club, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and the Botanical Research Institute of Texas are sponsoring the second *Butterflies in the Garden* display at the Botanic Garden during the month of March 2002. An educational exhibit highlighting native plants and pollinators will be on public display for visitors to the garden center during this event.

We have been invited to participate in this exciting event. We may choose three of the five weekends. Last year the event brought in over 33,000 visitors to the garden center and predictions promise of an even greater audience. What a great opportunity to educate, tell people about natives and recruit new members. Sign up sheets will be available at the February meeting.

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Native Plant Society of Texas
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Next Meeting

Join us, Thursday, February 7 at 7PM at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens to hear "The Butterfly Lady", Joann Karges, speak about butterflies and native plants. Come and learn!

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: 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 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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