



THE TEXAS SAGE

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 3

April 2004

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The President's Corner



The "lemonade stand" as Ann Alderfer calls it drew a curious crowd to our booth at the February Home and Garden Show—the 5 cent lemonade sign, however, turned around to

display "Go Native". The team who assembled the booth, Ann and Randy Alderfer were just as awesome as the teardown crew, Ann Alderfer and John Bridges. I lent a watchful eye of course, but admit I was not much help.

This outreach adventure we do twice a year exposes our chapter to all kinds of homeowners—the zero lot line to the expansive landowner. All of these candidates benefit from our education. "As the H&G attendees stopped by our booth, they asked questions about natives, looked at the reference books on display and went away with a list of native plants for North Central Texas. One phrase we heard throughout the weekend, "We're building a new home and don't want to spend our money on planting and watering what we know won't survive in Texas. We also visited with newly Texas transplants from all over the world. Some were here only a short time and did not know what to expect come summer. Also, thanks to all who helped Ann with the Home and Garden Show. We'll repeat a show in the Fall.

Another opportunity available to NPSOT members was the Lady Bird

Johnson Wildflower Center and NPSOT joint symposium February 28 in Austin. Landscape Architect, Gary Smith, spoke on "The New American Garden, Revisited", while keynote speaker, Jill Nokes, addressed "Restoration as a Model for Garden Design". Andrea DeLong-Amaya, Wildflower Center Garden's Manager, also explored ecological gardening. We broke into groups and heard about such topics as prairie gardens, residential landscapes, landscape design concepts, public gardens and trees in the landscape. Of course, it always helps to have a social after all the meetings and visit with mutual friends and have a glass of wine.

Sunday morning the North Central crew ventured to Pat McNeal's wholesale nursery. We saw low-tech ideas producing tons of native plants. Pat gave us lots of pointers and will teach a class at the Arlington greenhouse March 27. Sorry, but that class is full and has been almost day one.

I missed the BRIT lecture on Gulf Coast diversity due to tax season, but at our meeting following the lecture, everyone told me it was the best lecture yet—just what I wanted to hear. On April 8 we will furnish refreshments for BRIT at their next lecture. The topic is "The Ancient Cross Timbers Project" given by David Stahle, Ph.D. professor of Geosciences, University of Arkansas.

Our next meeting will be April 1 at the Botanic Garden and it will be a regular NPSOT program. Please join us and bring a something for the raffle. I'm thinking about bringing a desert willow. I'm not above bribery. Until then,
Gailon

April meeting:

Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm, Fort Worth Botanic Gardens
Courtney Blevins, Regional Urban Forester for the Fort Worth Region of the Texas Forest Service will present "Why different trees grow in different parts of the country and the state". We'll be in the Orchid Room for this regular meeting.

Butterfly of the Month: Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilo glaucus*) Joann Karges

No butterfly graces the garden more than the Tiger Swallowtail. Bright yellow, with "tiger" stripes, this large butterfly has by early March already emerged from its chrysalis and wings its way to flowering shrubs and trees in search of nectar. Its kind will be with us from March until frost.

In 1587 John White, commander of Sir Walter Raleigh's third expedition to the American colony of Virginia, painted this butterfly, making it the first recorded study of a North American species. In 1758 Linnaeus labeled it with its scientific name.

The Tiger Swallowtail has a wide range across the North American continent, though there are similar species in some parts of the West where it does not fly (the Western Tiger Swallowtail, the Two-Tailed Swallowtail, etc.) It uses a



variety of larval host plants in 12 different families, including some in the citrus family. In this area, however, they seem to prefer the ashes (*Fraxinus* sp.), especially green ash. The female lays her eggs high in the trees, where the larva grow comparatively slowly, concealing themselves in folded leaves in the heat of the day. Adults nectar readily on many flowers. One of the most interesting facts about Tiger Swallowtails is the female which may take one of two forms:

yellow with stripes like the male (except with much larger blue lunules in the hind wings) and a dark form, which in Batesian mimicry resembles the distasteful Pipe Vine Swallowtail, with decidedly blue lower wings. It has been proved that the male sees no difference in the two forms, seeing only the tiger stripes and other features for species recognition.

A Special Talk: Gardening for Wildlife

In honor of Earth Day, the UTA President's Recycling Committee and Arlington Conservation Council will present an unusual opportunity to learn how to create and restore habitats for wildlife and conserve water by growing native plants.

When: Monday, April 19, noon-1:30 pm

Where: UTA, Nedderman Hall, Room 100

Speaker: Marya Fowler, Manager of Educational Programs, National Wildlife Federation. She is technical advisor for the Schoolyard Habitats Continuum Program in San Antonio and owner of a landscape design business specializing in the use of native plants and the creation of habitat for wildlife.



Bring a sack lunch if you like; drinks and dessert provided. Please RSVP at 817-272-2185 by April 5. Park in Lot 26 by Maverick Stadium on Mitchell Street. From the bus stop a shuttle will take you to and from the Nedderman Building starting at 11:30 am.

Demo Garden Opportunities

Granbury Road Subcourthouse Meet at the site on second Saturdays and last Tuesdays for general maintenance. We begin at 9:00 am and work for 2 or 3 hours. The subcourthouse is 2 miles south of Loop 820 on Granbury Road. Contact Gailon Hardin, 817-457-4703, or ghardin@flash.net, for more information about the garden.

Hulen Library We meet at the garden for grooming and maintenance on the last Thursday of the month at 10:00 am October through April, other days as needed. Contact Ev Woodrey at 817-295-4683 for additional information.

The Molly Hollar Wildscape Workdays are on the first Saturday of every month at Veterans Park, 9:00 am until noon. Activities include planting, gathering seed, weeding, pruning etc. For information, contact Molly Hollar at 817-860-5580.

Native Plant of the Month: Lanceleaf Coreopsis *Amy Trauth-Nare*

Some native plants should be part of your landscape simply because they fill in a bare spot in what seems like an instant. Lanceleaf coreopsis is one of these plants. I received a small plantlet from a like-minded native plant lover and within a few months, it was a large, flowering clump in my backyard. Plus, I received abundant rewards for minimal effort, since it produced many flowers the same year I planted it. Lanceleaf coreopsis, or *Coreopsis lanceolata*, is a yellow-flowered composite. Both botanical taxonomists and amateurs alike often refer to yellow-flowered composites as NYC's (darn yellow composites) because yellow seems to be the predominant color of composite flower heads. Surely, you have noticed this, too. As you drive by an open field in late summer, you might notice the ground appearing as a sea of yellow that is made of several species of composite species. So many composites with yellow flowers can make

identification difficult. Like its yellow sisters, Lanceleaf coreopsis is a member of the sunflower family, Asteraceae. Members of the genus *Coreopsis* are closely related to *Bidens* or Beggar-ticks.

Lanceleaf coreopsis is a perennial that flowers from April through May. This species of *Coreopsis* naturally occurs in the midwest and southeastern U.S. and is documented as growing naturally in both Dallas and Tarrant counties. The plants can be up to two feet tall. The common name, lanceleaf, belies the leaf shape: long, narrow, sword-shaped. These leaves are usually crowded near the base of the plant and are usually entire or with a few lobes. The flower heads are golden yellow, with yellow bracts surrounding



yellow centers. Flower heads occur singly on mostly leafless stalks. It is an infinitely easy plant to establish. Seeds can be planted in the fall or divisions of established plants can be transplanted. A small piece of stem with root will mature into more plants. Lance-leaf coreopsis is drought tolerant and prefers full sun or part shade.

The next workday at the New York Ave Prairie in Arlington is planned for Sat., March 20 from 9am to 12pm. Please bring handsaws, loppers, and so on. I will not be there, but please RSVP back to me if you intend to come, so I can notify someone in charge about the number of volunteers.

Directions: East Arlington, about 1 mile south of I-20, and about 1/2 west of Highway 360. The prairie is at 4800 New York Ave., opposite Bayou Dr., and parking is available on the left past the prairie, on an old L-shaped drive.

Jeff Quayle, CTMN - Programs/Projects coordinator (817) 738-1322 prairie lover@ev1.net

The first workday last month was a great success, and this time there should be lots of prairie plants growing and budding. - Jan Miller

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Green Mama's Organic Garden Market 5324 Davis Blvd, North Richland Hills, TX 76180, 817-514-7336, www.greenmamas.com.

Mike's Garden Center, 5703 Crowley Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76134, 817-293-8736.

Native American Seed P.O. Box 185, 127 N 16th St, Junction, TX 76849, 800-728-4043, www.seedsource.com.

Rabbit Hill Farm Natural fertilizers and soil amendments, 288 SW CR 0020, Corsicana, TX 75110, 903-872-4289 www.aogc.org/pages/rhf/.

Redenta's Garden 5111 W Arkansas Ln, Arlington, TX 76016, 817-451-2149, www.redentas.com.

Shades of Green Native and well-adapted plants and organic supplies, 8801 Coit Rd, Frisco, TX 75035, 972-335-9095 sogreen@mindspring.com.

Chapter President
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 Arlington, TX 76016

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 1

7:00 pm

Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

Courtney Blevins will present
**Why different trees grow in
 different parts of the country
 and the state.**

Visit us on the Web at
www.txnativeplants.org

Join the Native Plant Society of Texas!

We invite you to become 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, TX 78627
 512-868-8799 or 512-931-1166

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Group	\$35
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THE TEXAS SAGE

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

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 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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The Texas Sage is printed on
 recycled paper.