



# THE TEXAS SAGE

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 2

March 2004

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## The President's Corner



At last month's meeting we had the pleasure of hearing David Bamberger, President and founder of the Bamberger Ranch Preserve, "Selah", near Johnson City.

Bamberger believes that it is important to maintain a connection to the land for enjoyment and development of a sense of place for family, to create and maintain personal values, and to enjoy the outdoors. While pointing to an escalating worldwide population and a dwindling base of natural resources, in the same breath he espouses a reverence for nature and proper management of the land.

Over the past 34 years he has demonstrated how a damaged environment can be restarted, a painstaking project involving selective clearing and the planting of native trees and grasses.

One of Bamberger's major interests is creating public awareness and education about the roles of private landowners. His biggest challenge has been the need for patience in working with nature.

He believes the most important issue to be addressed by private landowners in the future is to recognize that we are stewards of the land and with that stewardship comes the responsibility for preservation of habitat. This must be accepted by private landowners before public opinion forces dramatic changes in presently recognized private property rights.

Over 88 species of grasses, most of them native, now thrive on the hillsides and valleys of Selah. With grasses covering much of the rangeland, springs began to produce and creeks began to run.

Please join us on March 4 in the Lecture Hall at the Botanic Gardens. After the BRIT program we will meet in the Orchid room for a brief meeting and our monthly raffle. Until then,  
Gailon

## We've Stopped Going Postal!

At our Board meeting on January 18 it was decided that we should stop going postal and start going digital. What this means is that the monthly newsletter will be sent to the majority of our members via e-mail instead of regular mail.

The decision was based on several factors. It reduces costs, saves time, and allows members the flexibility of saving them digitally or printing them.

According to our records, 65% to 70% of our members have e-mail. Our cost to print and mail the newsletter last year amounted to \$965.60. If we could save even half that amount, it would be significant.

For this to be successful, we need your help. If you have e-mail, please provide your current e-mail address to Helena vanHeiningen so we can update our records. We will assume that the remaining members don't have e-mail, and we will continue to print and mail their newsletters to them.

We plan to implement this change with the April newsletter, so please provide your current information by March 15.

Thanks for helping our Chapter take a quantum leap into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

### March meeting:

Thursday, March 4, 7:00 pm, Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

Fred Bryant, Director, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Institute, Texas A&M Kingsville, will present "The Last Great Habitat: Biodiversity of South Texas" in the Dorothea Leonhardt Lecture Hall. A reception will begin at 6:30 and the program will start at 7:00 pm.



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## Butterfly of the Month: Dainty Sulphur (*Nathalis iole*) Joann Karges

In our area there are two white butterflies that fly throughout the warm seasons: the Checkered White and the Cabbage White. Two others often show up in early spring: the Falcate Orange Tip and the Olympia Marble. All four of these butterflies use only members of the cabbage family (Brassicaceae) as larval host plants: peppergrass, *Draba*, cabbage, etc. The yellow, or sulphur butterflies of this family of Pieridae, on the other hand, lay eggs only on members of the pea family (Fabaceae) such as partridge pea, two-leaf senna, alfalfa, etc.—except one, the Dainty Sulphur.

The smallest of the sulphurs, just about an inch from wing tip to wing tip, this is the little butterfly that flutters up as you walk along the trails, and it is a constant in our area, flying throughout the year, sometimes in large numbers.



Though its coloring may be variable from season to season, it can be recognized by the broad black tips on its yellow upper wings, and black bars along the lower margins. On the underside (our usual perspective as it nectars, wings folded, on flowers) the upper wings are a yellow-orange while the lower wings are usually a light to dark olive.

An anomaly among the sulphurs, the Dainty Sulphur uses only a few members of the Asteraceae family as larval host plant; most commonly in this area it is green-thread (*Thelesperma* sp), though

there are reports of its use of *Palafoxia*, *Dyssodea*, *Tagetes* and others. Since its basic food plant is rarely planted even in the most diverse native plant gardens, the Dainty Sulphur is mostly "rural": however, we will frequently find it taking nectar from many flowers in our urban gardens.

## Garden Cuttings Jim Leavy—Reprinted from The Texas Sage, February 1998

Spring is around the corner; now if the corner would just stand still. Our Texas natives know what to do this time of year; however, our adaptive plants want to start growing during warm spells. If you read last month's tip, you might have put down a few inches of mulch that will insulate the ground and keep soil temperatures relatively cool, thus delaying the growth of some of our natives and adaptive plants. If not, there still may be time. Again, most of our native plants do not need a helping hand, but late March is a good time to fertilize everything else; organic is the way to go.

Now is the time to start selectively weeding before the annuals set seed and the perennials set long roots. Although this task may seem overwhelming (it will be if you attempt to do it all at once), a little work over many times will eventually accomplish the end. Mulch applied to a depth of two to three inches can also be used to smother annual weeds.

We should avoid pruning red oaks and live oaks until the sweltering heat of July or August in order to avoid oak wilt. The beetle that carries the oak wilt disease will be emerging from its winter dormancy if it hasn't already. Fresh wounds on a tree allow easy access to the boring beetle and therefore to the potential disease. When the hot weather arrives, the beetle's activity slows down to the point where it is safe to prune again. So if you must prune your red and live oaks, do so during the doldrums of summer and winter.

Once again, it's time to visit the garden, and if yours is like mine, something is already blooming.

## Hulen Library Evaline Woodrey

In January, in spite of the negative weather prediction, Sandy Balch and Nancy Dozier and I braved the elements to work on the last Thursday of the month. It turned out to be a perfect day to work outside. We accomplished a lot for three people but left plenty to do in February. We found it interesting to see the plants that have seeded out in the gravelly path. We are leaving them so people can see how tough these plants are. In fact, the bluebonnets don't seem to want to grow in the beds. We will meet again February 26, weather permitting.

## 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](mailto: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: White prairie rose *Amy Trauth-Nare*



White prairie rose, also known as leafy rose, is one of the few roses native to North Central Texas. Its scientific name, *Rosa foliolosa*, aptly describes its vegetative condition as “full of leaves”. Like all true roses, white prairie rose is a member of the family Rosaceae. Thus, the genus *Rosa* is the namesake of the family. There are perhaps thousands of cultivars of roses, but only about 100-150 native species growing mostly in temperate areas of the world. Many cultivars have their origins in Europe, Asia or Africa, and records of rose cultivation date back to the Romans. Roses probably have been cultivated not only because of their beautiful flowers, but also because many members of the rose family hybridize readily and can produce viable seeds without fertilization. Other familiar groups that hybridize are hawthorns (*Crataegus*) and serviceberry (*Amelanchier*). Roses, as well as other genera in the Rosaceae, are economically important. Ornamentals such as *Cotoneaster*, *Photinia*, *Pyracantha* and *Spiraea* are widely planted. Fruits such as cherries, plums, peaches, blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, apples and pears are

among the most important temperate crops.

As its name implies, white prairie rose produces pure white, or, rarely, pale pink flowers from May through July. The plants are low growing, up to a half meter tall. Stems have few prickles or “thorns” and the foliage is dark green and shiny. White prairie rose will grow from Grand Prairie east to Blackland Prairie, thus tolerates a variety of soil conditions. Like most roses, white prairie rose likes sunny conditions, but will tolerate part shade. White prairie rose is rhizomatous, so it will form colonies where it is planted. This characteristic makes white prairie rose a nice landscape plant along fencerows or as erosion control, but not a logical choice for a proper rose garden. Propagating white prairie rose is the same as with other roses, via cuttings or by planting seeds. Did you know the fruit of all roses is called a hip? Hips are not only edible, but also high in vitamin C.

Source: Diggs, G. M., B. L. Lipscomb, R. J. O’Kennon. 1999. *Shinners and Mahler’s Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas*. Sida, Botanical Miscellany 16.

## 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.

## Newsletter Sponsors

The following businesses support our monthly newsletter. Please support them.

**Blooming Colors Nursery and Landscaping** 2221 Ira E Woods Ave, Grapevine, TX 76051, 817-416-6669, [www.bloomingcolorsnursery.com](http://www.bloomingcolorsnursery.com).

**Green Mama’s Organic Garden Market** 5324 Davis Blvd, North Richland Hills, TX 76180, 817-514-7336, [www.greenmamas.com](http://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](http://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/](http://www.aogc.org/pages/rhf/).

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**Shades of Green** Native and well-adapted plants and organic supplies, 8801 Coit Rd, Frisco, TX 75035, 972-335-9095 [sogreen@mindspring.com](mailto:sogreen@mindspring.com).

Chapter President  
 North Central Chapter  
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 2311 Perkins Rd  
 Arlington, TX 76016

## Next Meeting

**Thursday, March 4**

7:00 pm

Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

Fred Bryant will present  
**The Last Great Habitat:  
 Biodiversity  
 of South Texas**

Visit us on the Web at  
[www.txnativeplants.org](http://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.

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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*The Texas Sage* is printed on recycled paper.