



# THE TEXAS SAGE

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter

Volume 17, Number 9

November 2005

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## The President's Corner *Pat Lovejoy*

Members and Friends,

The attendance at our October plant swap was small but we had a great meeting. We missed all of you who couldn't attend. We traded some wonderful plants and learned a lot about our favorite natives. We had the usual swapping and hiding of plants and hoping the next person wouldn't come along and take the plant we had chosen, but actually everyone was well behaved and most everyone got to take home the plant they really wanted.

As you know, since we don't have a December meeting, this is my last month to be your President. I think we've had a good year! We had wonderful programs, good refreshments and an opportunity to learn more about the native plants we love. As of now, we are still searching for someone to lead us, but I have confidence someone will jump in soon and fill the position.

I would like to thank Anne Alderfer, Devanie Fergus, Hester Schwarzer, Donna Morris, Gailon Hardin, John Darling, Helena VanHeiningen, Evaline Woodrey, Vicky Neal, Molly Hollar, Taylor Stephens-Parker, and all of you who have helped me this year. I was a "fish out of water" and you were always there to help whenever I needed you!

As we move forward in 2006, I hope you will support the Native Plant Society, especially the North Central Chapter, and continue to learn more about and use our Texas native plants. I'm continuing to work on adding more and more natives to my landscape and hope you will

too. ***Don't forget, the mission of the Native Plant Society is to promote the conservation, research and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example.***

I'll see you at our meeting on November 10. Stephen Hayden will show us ways to use our native in our landscape. I'm always looking for new ideas and am anxious to hear Stephen's suggestions.

Thanks again for all your help and support this past year.

Pat



November meeting: Thursday, November 10, 7:00 pm, Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center, Orchid Room

The NPSOT meeting is November 10. Speaker will be the popular lecturer, Stephen Haydon of Haydon Horticulture. Stephen will introduce a new lecture on "Fine Garden Displays with Native Plants". This will be our final speaker for 2005, so don't miss this one.

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## Garden Cuttings *Gailon Hardin*



We haven't had any measurable rain for two months and we had the hottest September on record. My yard has gone into extreme shock because of terrible temperatures and no water. However, our weather is about to make a change for the better. Seventy degrees during the day and 50 at night is nothing to complain about. This is the perfect time to work in your yard.

Now is also the time bulbs appear in the nurseries, but no matter how tempting they look, it's too early to plant them. If you have to buy them, pick the largest bulbs, put them in a paper bag, and deposit them in the fridge until December or January. An exception to the rule is *Lycoris spp* that may take up to two years to establish a bloom cycle. Remember, not all bulbs are perennial here unless they are native. A good reference book for bulbs is Scott Ogden's *Garden Bulbs for the South*.

When planting in fall, do not feed your plants a high-nitrogen fertilizer. Doing so may encourage lush new growth that may then succumb to our erratic winter weather. Feed the roots instead with a handful each of worm castings and soft rock phosphate.

Remember, "Fall is for Planting." Have a happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. No meeting in December, so see you in January.

## Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park

On October 29 the wildscape at Veterans Park got a new name and Molly Hollar got the recognition she has always given to others. Thanks to a campaign by ACC and happy decisions by the Arlington Parks Board and City Council, it's now the Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park.

About 100 people stood in the parking lot as Parks Board member Glenn Troutman skillfully managed the dedication and unveiling of a beautiful new sign—thanks to designer Anna Poland and Park Supervisor Jay Falgout and his amazing crew. There were kind (and accurate) words from Parks Director Pete Jamieson, City Council member Kathryn Wilemon, daughter Susan Hollar, native plant expert Rosa Finsley, Texas Parks & Wildlife's John Davis, and former council member and ACC president Julia Burgen.

After 11 years of hard work, Molly was almost at a loss for words; she forgot to tell us to go home, tear up the grass, and create wildscapes. And you could see that she was a little concerned by all those people standing around when she should be having a wildscape workday. Molly, there will be many more, thanks to you.



## BRIT Fall 2005 Distinguished Lecture Series: Plants that changed the world

Wednesday, November 9, 2005: Brown Bag Botany at BRIT

The Art, History, and Science of Brewing with Robert George, editorial assistant, Flora of East Texas project. Robert will share the secrets of the brew through a look at the origin of barley and hops and the history of its production, from ancient times to the current renaissance. Different styles of beer and the process that makes each distinctive will be discussed. Time: 12:00 - 1:00 pm (bring your lunch). Place: BRIT Learning Center.

Thursday, November 10, 2005: T.M. Barkley Plant Science and Ecology Seminar

Ecological Studies in Old Growth Forest, Savannahs, and Prairies of East Texas William Godwin, Ph.D., biology professor, Stephen F. Austin State University. Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm. Place: Winton Scott Hall, Room 415, Texas Christian University. Free Parking: Park in the east campus W. Bowie Street lot across from the Tucker Science and Technology Building.

## Special Plant Swap Thanks:

Thanks to all who brought a plant for the plant swap. It was great, and you made it happen!

## Native Plant Society of Texas North Central Chapter Activity Report 2004 – 2005

The North Central chapter holds meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center, Fort Worth. The general meeting plan includes a speaker presentation, business agenda, raffle and refreshments. The chapter had 105 members as of August 5, 2005. Our mission is to promote the conservation, research and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas, through education, outreach and example.

### Education

- **Monthly programs:** Monthly educational programs were offered on such topics as native trees, making and using dyes from native plants, landscape design and propagation of native plants, and our annual plant swap.
- **Newsletter:** The monthly newsletter is informative, well organized and published in a professional manner. Articles include president's message, a current gardening calendar, demonstration garden news and upcoming events. Most members receive the newsletter by e-mail; one-fourth continue to be mailed conventionally.
- **Smart Start Your Yard With Natives:** A six-hour presentation by Rosa Finsley, presented in two-hour workshops for our chapter's meetings in April, May and June. Publicized well and reasonably priced (\$45); the public responded—53 non-members along with 67 members attended. Rosa's slide presentations during the April and May sessions helped the attendees learn about the basic principles of landscaping with indigenous plants. Also provided was a recommended plant list for North Central Texas and native plant books for sale. For our June meeting, Rosa led tours at the Molly Hollar Wildscape Demonstration Garden, Arlington to demonstrate how native plants would look in a residential environment.

### Outreach

- **Shows:** Over 1,500 pieces of NPSOT literature were passed to the public through booths at both spring and fall Fort Worth Home and Garden Show, Howard Garrett's Organic Garden Show, Arlington Urban Living Organic Garden Show, Fort Worth Nature Center Buffalo Boogie, newly formed Johnson County Master Gardener's Show and Expo, and the YardSmart Seminar at Fort Worth Botanic Gardens.
- **Plant Sales:** Spring and fall sales of native plants are held at the Molly Hollar Wildscape. Most of the plants were propagated by members from seeds or cuttings of plants native to the area.
- **Demonstration Gardens:**
  - Southwest Regional Library, Fort Worth** is jointly maintained by NPSOT, Tarrant County Master Gardeners and Texas Master Naturalists. A bulletin board of related topics is inside the library.
  - Southwest Tarrant County Sub-Courthouse, Fort Worth**, is also maintained by NPSOT, Tarrant County Master Gardeners and Texas Master Naturalists. An information box is available for visitors to the garden.
  - Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park, Arlington**, is maintained by NPSOT, Tarrant County Master Gardeners, Texas Master Naturalists and Arlington Conservation Council. Members also assist with plant propagation for the Molly Hollar Wildscape and plant sales. Kiosks are available with information throughout the four-acre demonstration garden.
- **Speaker's Bureau:** Numerous educational programs were given to various groups by our organization. Examples are: Garden clubs of Decatur, Everman, and Ennis; First Baptist Church-Arlington, Meadowbrook; all four campuses of Tarrant Community College; Master Gardener Associations in Tarrant, Johnson, Parker, and Hood counties; several libraries in the Fort Worth area; Como Community Center; three Homeowner's Associations, and a YardSmart Seminar at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. A total of 703 adults and youths were reached by the Speaker's Bureau.
- **Publicized Monthly Meeting** in the local newspapers.
- **Website** maintained at [www.txnativeplants.org](http://www.txnativeplants.org).

### Example

The highlight of our year was the workshop presented by Rosa Finsley. We not only increased our membership, but the modest fee charged for the workshop allowed us to donate \$1000 to the Fort Worth Botanic Society for the Texas Native Forest Boardwalk.

Chapter President  
 North Central Chapter  
 Native Plant Society of Texas  
 2311 Perkins Rd  
 Arlington, TX 76016

## Next Meeting

**Thursday, October 13**

7:00 pm

Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

Stephen Haydon,  
 Haydon Horticulture:

*Fine Garden Displays with  
 Native Plants*

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
<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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