



THE TEXAS SAGE

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter
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Year 2005 Officers and Committee Chairs

President

Pat Lovejoy
817-447-7924
patlovejoy@att.net

Vice President & Program Chair

Anne Alderfer
817-457-0972
easa@swbell.net

Treasurer

Devanie Fergus
817-861-1932
devanieferg@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Hester Schwarzer
817-265-0777
hwschwarzer@aol.com

Historian

Evaline Woodrey
817-295-4683
ewoodrey@earthlink.net

Hospitality Chair

Donna Morris
817-263-5141
morris_donna@hotmail.com

Membership Chair

Helena vanHeiningen
817-244-5338
hvanhein@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster

Vicky Neal
817-361-0455
victoriavery@att.net

Outreach

Anne Alderfer
817-457-0972
easa@swbell.net

Education

Taylor Stephens-Parker
817-784-6003
soilnurse@earthlink.net

Publicity

817-457-4703
Gailon Hardin
ghardin@flash.net

Field Reporter

John Dycus
j.dycus@comcast.net

The President's Corner *Pat Lovejoy*

Members and Friends,

Special thanks to Dar Richardson for coming all the way from Georgetown to give our program on plant propagation. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. This is an especially interesting topic for me because of my work with the Molly Hollar Wildscape group growing plants for our semi-annual plant sales as well as for our demonstration gardens. I have an almost ¾-acre yard, and by growing many of my own plants, I have been able to put a lot more native plants in my landscape.

Another good way to get new plants is by passing along our extras. As you know, some of our natives can be a bit overzealous and throw seeds throughout the yard in unwanted locations. I like to pot them up for future use or to share with neighbors and friends. I also start lots of plants from the seeds I collect while deadheading. Our natives are very generous with their seeds and usually have plenty for both our use and the birds. Many of our natives have root systems that like to run underground, often making the plants too large for their location. I like to dig and pot these also to move to a new location or pass along. You can see I'm hooked on propagating and growing our native plants.

Now that the temperatures are cooling down and fall is hinting at its arrival, many of my natives that have been resting during the heat of the summer are starting to bloom again.

This is a great time to dig a clump of your favorite native plant and bring it to our October meeting to pass along to another member. Be sure you are able to tell us a little about the plant also. This is always a fun meeting and a good way for us to learn more about our native Texas plants.

Passing along plants is a great way for us to remember our mission to promote the conservation research and utilization of the native plants and plant habitat of Texas through education, outreach, and example.

See you in October,

Pat



A little reminder of how a few native plants can look in spring, before being battered by a long, dry summer.

October meeting: Thursday, October 13, 7:00 pm, Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center, Orchid Room

The October meeting is our annual progressive plant swap. Please bring a native plant with complete description and its cultural requirements for a fun and educational meeting.

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Garden Cuttings *Gailon Hardin*



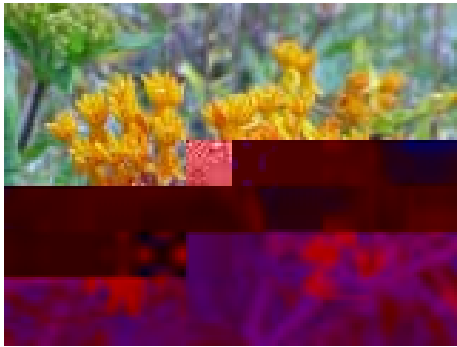
It's the fourth week of September as I write this article, and it's still 100 degrees. Hurry up, October, because fall is for planting.

When the temperatures fall to the low 80s or below, it's time to dust off the spade and sharpshooter and start transplanting, dividing, replanting and reconfiguring. Trees usually transplant best when they are dormant or lose their leaves in the fall. A seasoned gardener may successfully move a tree now, but the novice may want to wait until after November. New trees can be planted now. In fact, anyone searching for a fall color tree should pick a tree now when the color changes. Shumard red oak (*Quercus shumardii*) can vary from tones of brown to orange to red because of genotypic variation as well as the past year's weather pattern. Texas ash can vary from tones of brown to yellow to purple. Picking a tree that displays red leaves one year will increase the likelihood of getting a tree that displays red leaves in the majority of years to follow.

Most shrubs can be successfully moved now by carefully digging an adequate root ball and reducing the top growth by one-third to a half. Again, if you are in the experimental stages of

garden knowledge, waiting till the plant goes dormant can increase success.

Most perennials can be moved and divided at this time with little worry. Any perennial with a basal rosette of leaves should be trimmed to those leaves after transplanting; others should have their foliage reduced at least by half in order to ensure survival after a move. Some perennials have very long taproots, *Asclepias* spp. for example, and should be left until winter to try to move. Some perennials may be tender—like pavonia, anisacanthus or lantana—and should not be moved until spring when the temperatures are in the 70s. These tender perennials that tend to thrive in the heat may not winter well even as newly planted pots in the fall, especially if we have a cold, wet winter.



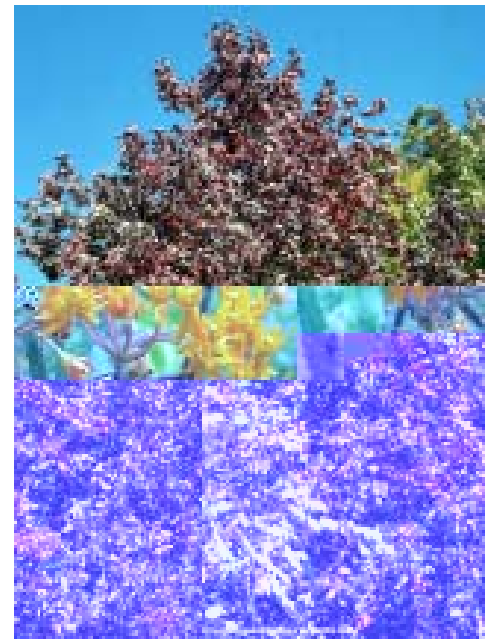
Asclepias tuberosa. Photo from Digital Flora of Texas Vascular Plant Image Library.

Grasses can be divided now, but you will probably miss their full potential if they happen to be cool weather grasses. Wait until they have pushed their inflorescences to their full

splendor and then cut them back to the ground before moving and dividing.

When you prepare a new bed or a new hole for a perennial or small shrub, remember that this is one of the few times you will have the chance to add soil amendments like compost or sand to the root zone of your plants. So be generous: Up to one-third of the affected volume should be amendment, and mix it thoroughly. Don't forget to water the plants in so that air pockets in the soil of the hole are filled. Water as needed for the first few weeks and then once a month through the winter if a drought occurs. Many plants, especially newly planted ones, wilt during the afternoon sun. The response for the inexperienced gardener is to water right then. The experienced gardener will wait until the following morning and see if the plants are still drooping; if they are, then they water.

I must end now, because I have lots of planting to do.



A Texas ash shows its fall colors. Photo from Texas Native Plant database.

Special Raffle Thanks:

Dar Richardson - plants left from demonstration
 Designs in Nature - Chisos rosewood
 Gailon's Gardens - desert willows
 Green Mamas - gift certificate
 Helena VanHeiningen - NPSOT bumper sticker
 Jeannie Browning - purple coneflower
 Redenta's Gardens - gift certificate

Thanks also to all who bought a ticket. This helps us cover our meeting room and refreshment expenses. We appreciate your continued support. And of course, thanks to anyone we might have forgotten.

Arlington's SmartYard Contest: And the Winners Are...

Smart Yard was an event to recognize Arlington residents who have incorporated environmentally friendly yard management and design into a "smart yard" using the design concepts from Texas SmartScape and similar sources. All winners receive braggin' rights and a sign to display in their yard. The 2005 winners are:

Kathryn Beeler - Best Hidden Garden
 Grace Darling - Best Use of Texture
 Cynthia Hackathorn - Best Formal Landscape
 Susan White - Best Cottage Garden
 Bernetta Glasser - Best Shade Garden
 Clif Ellis - Best Before and After
 Gailon Hardin - Best Meadow
 Debbie Semek - Best Photo Presentation
 Devanie Fergus - Best Creek Frontage
 Thanet and Tom Flint - Best Garden for Meandering
 Mary Nell Hubbard - Best Wildlife and People Friendly
 Ann Trenton - Best Butterfly Friendly
 Julia and Jack Burgen - Best Urban Woodland

A special thanks goes to the judges: City of Arlington employees Bob Ressler, Joe Pack and Kevin Charles, and to the contest partner, the University of Texas at Arlington.



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

October 13, "King Cotton: A Revolutionary Fiber", Frank K Wilson, Dallas Historical Society

November 3, "The Evil Influence of the Lazy Root: Social History through the Potato's Eyes", Larry Zuckerman, author

All lectures are held at the Ft Worth Botanic Gardens, Leonhardt Auditorium, 7:00 pm.

Molly Hollar Wildscape Dedication



Many NPSOT members have worked long and hard over the last 10 years at the wildscape at Veterans Park. On Saturday October 29 at 10:00 we can relax and enjoy it as our new sign is unveiled and we acknowledge all that work—as well as the efforts of the tireless Molly Hollar, whose unwavering dedication to the cause of native plant landscaping is a true inspiration.

Please make every effort to attend; you know Molly will insist on giving credit to all who have made the wildscape such a success.

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

Annual Plant Swap

**Bring some plants
 and have some fun!**

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
<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: _____

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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.

John Darling, Editor
The Texas Sage
 817-274-1077
1darling@sbcglobal.net

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