



THE TEXAS SAGE

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter
Volume 18, Number 1
January 2006

Year 2006 Officers and Committee Chairs

President

John Bridges
presidentncnpsot@earthlink.net

Past President

Pat Lovejoy
patlovejoy@att.net

Vice President

Hester Schwarzer
817-265-0777

Treasurer

Donna Morris
morris_donna@hotmail.com

Secretary

Sandy Balch
sabalch@aol.com

Hospitality Chair

Open

Membership Chair

Helena van Heiningen
hvanhein@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster

Marilyn Sallee
marilynsallee@uwmil.com

Outreach

Anne Alderfer
easa@swbell.net

Education

Taylor Stephens-Parker
soilnurse@sbcglobal.net

The President's Corner

Thank you for the opportunity to be your North Central NPSOT's president. I'll try not to mess it up.

We are the second largest chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. How cool is that?

What do you want from NPSOT? This is not a simple question so here is my plan. After bringing up questions or thoughts in your newsletter and /or at regular meetings, I will be sending you e-mails from time to time asking for your opinion. If you don't want my e-mails, you're going to have to reply once telling me to stop.

Some things that I would like your feedback on:

How about a 2007 garden tour? The NPSOT garden tour of 2001 was my all-time favorite garden tour, ever. That is when I joined NC NPSOT. I sure would like all the help possible from those members who put on the 2001 tour to again help us organize a 2007 tour. Why 2007? As I understand it, the 2001 tour took 2 years to arrange. What do you think about a garden tour?

Your board has been working on a new logo for a while. The aim is to choose a plant endemic to this area. Most want *Yucca pallida* (pale yucca). At least one board member wants all five of our endemic plants. I don't have a favorite; I just want to move the process along. No, I don't know what the other four endemic plants are or look like. I will, though, and you will too very soon. Then, a vote by e-mail followed by a regular meeting vote. You can't vote twice. Then I will be hunting for seeds. Do you have *Yucca pallida* growing at your place?



We have changed our meetings from the first Thursday to the second Thursday to work around BRIT. I understand that the move doesn't help this year. Fort Worth Audubon Society (www.fwas.org) also meets on the second Thursday. I feel we might be missing potential members. Again, what do you think?

continued on page 2



**January meeting: Thursday, January 12, 7:00 pm,
Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Deborah Beggs Moncrief
Garden Center, Orchid Room**

Our speaker will be Suzanne Tuttle, Manager, Fort Worth Nature Center, speaking on winter tree identification. Suzanne will follow this program with a Winter Tree ID field trip at the Nature Center, date to be announced.

The President's Corner continued from page 1

Did you know that our January 12 speaker, Suzanne Tuttle, was the first NC NPSOT President? It was called the Fort Worth chapter instead of North Central, yet it was the same group. Maybe we can ask her to say a few words on the early days of our chapter.

I want to see us get involved in the NICE program (Natives Instead of Common Exotics). This is real cool. Have you heard of the NICE program before? It promotes native plants of the month at selected nurseries. Y'all will receive more information as I get it.

This last year left dead landscaping all over North Texas. Few yards—including mine—were spared damage. As our area replants from the drought of 2005, we have a great chance to get home owners to plant natives as they replace their fried exotics.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area has such hostile weather, you almost have to be native and organic just to survive years like 2005. Oh, by the way, I don't know how to grow anything with salt-based fertilizers. I grow a few trees and shrubs organically because that is the only way I know how. I'm betting most NPSOT members are organic. It just seems to fit. Are you organic?

As far as I know, no one has volunteered to be Hospitality Chair (refreshments) in 2006. NC NPSOT reimburses your expenses. Anyone interested, please e-mail me. We might only have coffee at our January meeting. Some groups charge for refreshments and use the proceeds to fund other events. What do you think?

I'm going to try to have our regular board meetings at 6:00 pm in our room at the Botanical Gardens before our regular meetings. We are there anyway, and the room rental clock starts ticking at 6:00. Our next board meeting/regular meeting will be January 12. After our speaker's presentation, I would like to hear comments from our members regarding the direction they'd like NPSOT to take. I would also like to discuss some projects that we might undertake if there is sufficient interest.

I promise to read every e-mail you send me regarding NPSOT. Contact me at presidentncnpsot@earthlink.net. Please keep in mind that I have dial-up service.

Last, I would like to thank all the past officers and volunteers for all of their work. Y'all did good! See you January 12. GROW NATIVES.

John Bridges



Native Plant Spring Symposium: Native Plants as Habitat

Saturday, February 25, 9 am – 5 pm

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Auditorium

Early registration: \$65 per person; after January 31, \$75 per person

Hosted by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the Native Plant Society of Texas

Our Spring Symposium will include a plenary session reviewing the ecological aspects of native plants as habitat, followed by an in-depth afternoon of break-out sessions. We will address specific animal and plant relationships and review current biological research as related to native plant ecology. Visit our website, www.wildflower.org, for complete information and registration.

Garden Cuttings at SW Subcourthouse Gailon Hardin

I've been asked by many people when they should start pruning their perennials. My answer is always the same: It depends. It depends on how much time you have, whether the weather cooperates, how much you have to prune, and how much food and cover you want to leave for the wildlife.

At the SW Subcourthouse in the Hulen area of Fort Worth, we have 10,000 square feet of native plantings that need trimming and we only work two hours, twice a month, so we begin pruning immediately after the first freeze in mid-November. That gives us a maximum of seven days to accomplish the pruning by the end of February. The zexmenia seems to be the first one affected by the frost and volunteers **Peggy Falconer, Marilyn Sallee and Hilda Cassidy** started trimming it in November. In December we only worked one day due to weather, and **Peggy, Marilyn and Sally Porter** continued with blue mistflower, fall aster and rockrose while I "dressed" the red yuccas. That means removing the stalks.



Zexmenia

We also lost a very large sotol; we chopped it into small pieces and left them for mulch. In January we will take on the pitcher sage and hope to be done with everything except the autumn sage. The autumn sage will not be cut until February, and it will take both workdays to prune the 200 plants. We will also pray for good February weather. What a dream. When we finish with all the pruning, we will "rake" the Lindheimer's muhly. Raking is a method we learned at the Wildflower Center in Austin. It's easier than pruning and looks much better.



Fall aster

Please keep in mind that when you tidy your garden early, as we must, you remove food and cover for small mammals, birds, insects, and reptiles. Seeds from those browning grasses, flowers, and bushes provide some of the last remaining food sources for the fauna that has been living in or visiting your garden. The dead or dormant plants also provide resting sites for the warm-blooded birds and mammals, as well as hiding places for those creatures whose body temperatures fluctuate with the ambient air temperature. Those stems and stalks may also be the sites for the eggs of butterflies and other beneficial insects. The longer you wait to cut back the garden, the more benefits for wildlife.

The next workday will be on Saturday, January 14, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. If you'd like to help, contact Gailon Hardin at 817-475-0923.



Blue mistflower



Red yucca

Molly Hollar Wildscape Dedicated

Molly Hollar's years of hard work at the wildscape have now been officially recognized. 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 Arlington Conservation Council and happy decisions by the 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, Molly's daughter Nancy King, native plant expert Rosa Finsley, Texas Parks & Wildlife's John Davis, and ACC's former 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.

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 12

7:00 pm

Fort Worth

Botanic Gardens

Suzanne Tuttle

Fort Worth Nature Center

**Winter Tree
Identification**

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 with the appropriate remittance to:

Native Plant Society of Texas
P.O. Box 891, Georgetown, TX 78627
512-868-8799 or 512-931-1166

_____ Student	\$15	_____ Group	\$35
_____ Senior Citizen	\$15	_____ Patron	\$50
_____ Individual	\$20	_____ Benefactor	\$100
_____ Family	\$25	_____ 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.

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