



N P S O T

North Central Texas News

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter
Volume 18, Number 5 July 2006

The President's Corner John Bridges

Greetings,

Starting in February 2007, our meetings are back to first Thursdays.

I'm glad to announce three more names to add to our list of native plant nurseries:

The Redenta's in Cedar Hill is now Petal Pushers Garden Emporium. They are still at 813 Straus Rd. in Cedar Hill. Their phone is 972-291-7650. No web site yet. They are still organic and grow a bunch of their own plants. They may have even more native plants than before.

The Redenta's in Colleyville has also been sold and is now Tinker Grove Gardens. They are still at 6230 Colleyville Blvd. Their phone is 817-488-3525, and they are still organic. No web site yet. They are the only place I know of that stocks the native white honeysuckle bush, *Lonicera albiflora*. Most of our nurseries have *Lonicera fragrantissima*, which is extremely invasive. In fact, it was after I did a nonproductive search of nurseries for *L. albiflora* that I was talking to their manager, Tim, about it. Tinker Grove then found and brought in the native white honeysuckle bush. I bought one to give away for our next raffle. I sure would like to see Tinker Grove having to reorder more of it. Could you help me out with this? (Call first.)

Remember Beth and Cary Hardin, the original owners of Green Mama's? Ever wondered what ever happened to them? They moved to Decatur and have just opened up Main Street Home & Gardens. They are on 603 West Main Street, Decatur. Their phone is 940-627-0235. No web site yet. They were the first nursery I talked to about doing our "Natives Instead of Common Exotics" (NICE) program, and their response was "of course." They usually stock around 50 natives.

We hope to get a list of normally stocked natives from all of our native nurseries. Look over the following list of local native plant nurseries and e-mail me to add any I missed.

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Year 2006 Officers and Committee Chairs

President

John Bridges
presidentncnpsot@earthlink.net

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patlovejoy@att.net

Vice President

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817-265-0777

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morris_donna@hotmail.com

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sabalch@aol.com

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hvanhein@sbcglobal.net

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marilynsallee@uwmil.com

Outreach

Anne Alderfer
easa@swbell.net

Education

Taylor Stephens-Parker
soilnurse@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter coordinator

Gailon Hardin
ghardin@flash.net

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

**Our speaker will be Joann Karges, who will present
a program on butterflies and native plants. Joann is
one of our favorite speakers and this is a "don't miss."**

The President's Corner *continued from page 1*

Designs in Nature
5501 East IH20
Fort Worth, Texas
817-561-9248
www.thetreeplace.com

Green Mamas Organic Garden Market
5324 Davis Blvd.
North Richland Hills, Texas 76180
817-51-GREEN (514-7336)
www.greenmamas.com

Main Street Home and Garden
603 West Main Street
Decatur, Texas 76234
940-627-0235

Petal Pushers Garden Emporium
813 Strauss Rd.
Cedar Hill, Texas
972-2917650

Redenta's Garden
5111 W. Arkansas Lane
Arlington, Texas 76016
817-451-2149

Redenta's Garden
2001 Skillman St.
Dallas, Texas 75206
214-823-9421
www.redentas.com

Rohde's Nursery & Nature Store
1651 Wall Street
Garland, Texas 75041
972-864-4445
www.beorganic.com

Stuart Nursery and Landscaping
2317 Fort Worth Highway
Weatherford, Texas
817-596-0003
www.stuartnurseryinc.com

Tim's Landscaping INC.
7319 W Vickery Blvd.
Benbrook, Texas 76116-9219
817-937-0204

Tinker Grove Gardens
6230 Colleyville Blvd.
Colleyville, Texas
817-488-3525

Weatherford Gardens
2106 Fort Worth Highway
Weatherford, Texas
817-594-6055
Metro 817-341-0152

Weston Gardens in Bloom
8101 Anglin Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76140
817-572-0549
www.westongardens.com

Would you like to learn about the natural world in our area? Want to help save part of it? Check into the Cross Timbers Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist. Signing up for the course was one of the best choices I have ever made. Look them up at www.ctmn.org. Class size is limited. For more information contact Ginger Bason-Bowden at 817-838-7321, ginger@ctmn.org, or Wayne Broyles at 817-596-5682, wayne@ctmn.org. There are 9 classes on Tuesday nights from 6:00 to 9:00, plus 4 Saturday field trips from 10:00 to 4:00, ending with a Monday night wrap-up. The program takes 10 weeks and around 54 hours. That breaks down to around \$1.85 an hour. Here's the schedule:

Tuesday, 8/29/06: Orientation – Welcome, Program Orientation, and Statewide Program Mission
Tuesday, 9/05/06: Wetland Systems – Characteristics of water and local aquatic systems
Tuesday, 9/12/06: Wetland Fauna – Reptiles and amphibians emphasizing wetland/aquatic species
Saturday, 9/16/06: Wetland **Field Trip - Group and individual activities
Tuesday, 9/19/06: Forest Systems – Types of the Cross Timbers region
Tuesday, 9/26/06: Forest Fauna – Mammals emphasizing forest species
Saturday, 09/30/06: Forest **Field Trip – Group and individual activities
Tuesday, 10/03/06: Prairie Systems – Soils, vegetation, and eco-systems of North Central Texas prairies
Tuesday, 10/10/06: Prairie Fauna – Invertebrates emphasizing prairie species
Saturday, 10/14/06: Prairie **Field Trip – Group and individual activities
Tuesday, 10/17/06: Being an effective volunteer and other important information
Texas Master Naturalists State Conference, Moe Ranch, Oct. 20-22, 2006 (optional but highly recommended)
Tuesday, 10/24/06: Urban Systems – The effects of urbanization on natural systems
Saturday, 10/28/06: Urban Systems **Field Trip – Group and individual activities
Monday, 10/30/06: Wrap-up – Summary overview and volunteer opportunities in the Cross Timbers Chapter

All classroom instruction will be at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNC&R)

Thanks for your time,
John Bridges

**Field trip dates and times subject to change. Two field trips will be at the FWNC&R. Others will be held at various locations around the Ft. Worth Metroplex

Native Plant Propagation Marilyn Sallee

As members of the Native Plant Society, we all advocate that people use more native plants. But where are those plants going to come from? The nursery trade only carries a few of the long list of natives. How about propagating those natives ourselves—to plant more on our own property, to give away to friends, to entice new friends to consider using more natives.

In an effort to help relieve the bottleneck in getting the native plants to as many people as possible, we have this new column in our chapter newsletter: how to propagate native plants.

Some natives, like *Zexmania*, *Eupatoria*, and *Ruella*, are so prolific and easy to propagate that there are usually plenty to pass around. Some shrubs, like autumn sage, aromatic sumac, or coral berry, are also easy to propagate but take a few years to reach decent size. Those types of plants only require patience and space to have enough to pass around.

What we would like to cover in this monthly column is how to make more of those exceptional natives that are scarce simply because they are relatively unknown, difficult to propagate, or require some extra knowledge or steps.

What we would like from you is a list of plants that you would like to know how to propagate, either for yourself or to pass along.

Would you like to turn that lovely agarita specimen into a whole hedge? Do you long for certain wildflowers that simply can't be bought in the stores, like compass plant or Lindheimer senna? Have you found an unusual color or form and would like to have more of that one subtype?

Just let our plant propagation specialists know which ones you'd like to see covered, and we'll provide the step-by-step keys to making more of that plant. Email your plant list to Marilyn Sallee at msallee@yahoo.com, then watch this column for further instructions.

Tree Thoughts John Bridges

I would like to talk to you about two beautiful native trees whose planting I would like to see stopped. I'm thinking of red oaks and live oaks. A graceful live oak is simply breathtaking and a red oak in full red fall color is amazing. They are the most commonly planted native trees in north central Texas. While I would never want anyone to cut down either tree, they both have severe problems. If you have them, cherish them. If you want to plant a new tree, pick something else. Texas has plenty of choices.

What is wrong with live oaks and red oaks? Oak wilt! It should concern everyone who owns one of these trees. This is not a West Coast problem. This is not a Northeast problem, like Dutch elm disease, that you have heard about your whole life and is still not here yet. Our area is the heart of oak wilt country. Oak wilt isn't coming *to* here, it is coming *from* here.

Yes, you can treat your tree and if treated soon enough you can prolong its life for three years. Well, 80% of them anyway. Then after three years, if it is still around you can start the treatment all over again.

What about the cure? There is only one. Stop planting and growing trees that are susceptible to oak wilt. This includes all 16 trees of the native black/red oak group along with the two live oaks from the white oak group.

While all 23 species of trees in the white oak group can catch oak wilt, only the live oaks will die from it. The other species of oaks in the white oak group—including post oak, bur oak, chinkapin oak, Lacey oak and white oak—can catch oak wilt, yet the disease moves so slowly through the tree that summer comes around and kills the infection.

How do you know if your tree is from the red/black oak group? Simple: Look at the end of one of your oak's leaves. Is there a hair-like appendage (bristle tip) sticking out past the end? If so, it is from the red/black oak group and can die from oak wilt. Another way to tell is by looking at the acorn cups. If they are fuzzy inside, they came from the red/black oak group. If smooth inside, it came from the white oak group, and unless it is a live oak, it is safe from oak wilt.

Another problem with red oaks is their habit of cross breeding with northern red oaks. This makes them unable to feed properly in alkaline soil. They are easy to spot: Look for the lime-green trees; those are the ones with northern red oak fathers. Their owners will spend years and countless products trying to save them. Unless they dig them up and move them to Tyler or somewhere that has acidic soil, it is hopeless.

Then there is the problem of red oaks that don't have any red fall color. Like my two 26-year-old trees. While a minor problem, their red fall color was the reason I chose them.

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 13
7:00 pm
Fort Worth
Botanic Gardens

Joann Karges:
Butterflies
and Native Plants

Visit us on the Web
at
www.txnativeplants.org

Join the Native Plant Society of Texas!

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
PO Box 3017, Fredricksburg, TX 78624
830-997-9272

_____ Student	\$15	_____ Couple/Family	\$40
_____ Senior Individual (65+)	\$20	_____ Group	\$50
_____ Senior Couple (one 65+)	\$30	_____ Patron	\$100
_____ Individual	\$25	_____ Benefactor	\$250
		_____ Supporting	\$500
		_____ Corporate Sponsor	\$1000
		_____ Lifetime	\$1000

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____

Chapter Affiliation: North Central Chapter

e-mail: _____

The North Central Texas NPSOT News

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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
817-274-1077
ldarling@sbcglobal.net