



THE TEXAS SAGE

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter
Volume 18, Number 3
March 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

Newsletter Coordinator

ghardin@flash.net

Webmaster

Marilyn Sallee
marilynsallee@uwmmail.com

Outreach

Anne Alderfer
easa@swbell.net

Education

Taylor Stephens-Parker
soilnurse@sbcglobal.net



The President's Corner



Hello, North Central Texas,

You may wonder why we are doing so many garden shows: it's because of the drought that we are trying to put out as much information about native plants as possible. Our main goal is to get people to plant Texas natives. At the garden shows people love our lemonade stand and our suggested native plant list. People who walk by are asked, "Would you like a list of native plants that already like your yard?," and almost all will stop in their tracks to get a copy. More than 25% of them want more information.

Given a chance native plants sell themselves. Almost! You have to be able to find them. The most frequently heard feedback at the shows is, "Where can I get the plants on your list?" Well, as long as the questioner lives in eastern Tarrant County or northern Dallas County, it is easy. For everyone else we have little to nothing to offer, other than the Wasowski book. All we can say is that we will have a list on our Web site soon.

At one show young couple took our list and then came back to ask why their new neighborhood in Whitesboro had the same plants that were around their old house in Boston. Isn't Texas climate too different for those plants to be happy here? We were the only people talking about plants that were not familiar to residents of New England. At first I thought they were messing with me, but they were serious. For months before they moved here, all they heard about Texas was our climate. They get here and it is 70 degrees in early February. They bought a house with no landscaping, only to discover that every landscaper they could find wanted to make their Texas house look like it was in Boston. But these people wanted their Texas house to look like it belonged in Texas. Could I help them? Did I know of any native landscaper, designers or even an architect? Let me see, no, no, and no. The Wasowski book was the only thing that saved the day. That and this new list you are helping with. Please.

This situation was all too common. I talked to well over 30 new homeowners who wanted to use natives, yet they were over an hour away from any of our normal superstar nurseries:

Designs in Nature www.thetreeplace.com

continued on page 2

March meeting: Thursday, March 9, 7:00 pm,
Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Deborah Beggs Moncrief
Garden Center, Orchid Room

Our speaker will be John Davis, Texas Parks & Wildlife Urban Biologist. John's program will be "The Coyote Intrusion in Urban Neighborhoods."

The President's Corner continued from page 1



Green Mama's Organic Garden Market greenmamas.com

North Haven Gardens nhg.com

Redenta's redentas.com

Rohde's Nursery & Nature Store beorganic.com

Weston Gardens in Bloom westongardens.com

We all know these nurseries; they have been helpful to our chapter and we visit them regularly. What of Stuart Nursery and Landscaping in Weatherford, stuartnurseryinc.com? I have never been there, but they are members of our



chapter. So are Beth and Cary Hardin, who will open Main Street Home & Garden in Decatur some time soon. Does Weatherford Gardens have a Web site? Anyone ever been to Wichita Valley Nursery in Wichita Falls? They claim to have the largest selection of native plants in North Texas and Southern Oklahoma (fallsonline.com/wichitavalley).



If you know of a retail nursery that sells native plants anywhere in North Texas, please e-mail me at presidentncnpsot@earthlink.net. If you know of a landscaper who works with natives, let me know.

We would love to receive as much information on new nurseries as possible. Just their name would be a good start. The more information you can give us, the more information we can pass on to homeowners. What percentage of their stock is native, how many different kinds of natives do they have? Are they also organic? While we still haven't established our cutoff point, someone selling just sweetgum and cypress trees won't make the cut.

The hardest thing about landscaping with Texas native plants is finding a place that sells the native plant you want. So with your help, our group is putting together a list of retail nurseries and landscapers in North Central Texas that sell natives. While there

are several partial lists out there, they are mostly "pay to get included" style lists. That is not enough.

Homeowners in North Central Texas have lost a huge amount of existing landscaping. Help us give them a Texas native choice. Who would be better at putting together this list than us? We are the second largest chapter in Texas. We can do this! Please send any information you have.

John Bridges



Texas Wildscape Workshop and Texas Native Plant Sale



Workshop:

Saturday, April 29 9:00 am - 12:00 am
The Montessori Academy
3428 W. Arkansas Ln
8:30 am - 9:00 am
Registration and refreshments

**On Saturday morning,
learn how to create
your own wildscape.**



Plant Sale:

Saturday, April 29 1:00 - 5:00 pm
Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park

For a list of plants expected to be available
and more details, go to
ArlingtonConservationCouncil.org

**On Saturday afternoon,
invest in organically grown
native plants for your wildscape.**

Texas Wildscape Workshop

Location: The Montessori Academy. North of I-20 at 3428 W. Arkansas Lane. From Green Oaks Blvd go east on Arkansas Lane to entrance road.



Rosa Finsley, landscape architect and native plant authority, and John Davis, Urban Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., will show you how to use native landscaping and employ thoughtful design to create a backyard that is inviting to people and wildlife alike.

Included in topics covered will be design, plant material, water use, and ordinances.

Workshop requires pre-paid registration.

Registration deadline April 22

Confirmation - By email or phone; will not be mailed out. **Refund - Requires notification by April 22. No refunds for late cancellations or no-shows.** Questions? Call Marian Hiler at 817-277-3998 or email *info@arlingtonconservationcouncil.org*

Mail check and registration form to:

ACC, PO Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

Box lunch from Jason's Deli (optional, add \$6.00)

Sandwich choice, check one:

turkey roast beef ham vegetarian

Workshop \$24.00 _____

Box Lunch \$6.00 _____

Total enclosed _____

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 9

7:00 pm

Fort Worth

Botanic Gardens

John Davis

Texas Parks & Wildlife

Department

**The Coyote Intrusion in
Urban Neighborhoods**

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

_____ 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