



N P S O T

North Central Texas News

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter
Volume 18, Number 7 October 2006

The President's Corner John Bridges

Greetings,

Well, we made it through another one of the worst summers in North Central Texas history. This drought really needs to be over with. We are witnessing a major historical tree event, a large die off in slow motion. People keep time in hours and days, but trees keep time in decades and centuries. The sorry condition that millions of our trees are in is almost completely due to the past ten years of extreme weather.

We have been keeping good weather records ever since 1898. If you were to list the 10 hottest summers in the past hundred and nine years, 1989, 1999, 2000, and 2006 make the top 10 list. That's bad enough but it gets worse still.

We then have had droughts in 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2006. Those years received around two thirds of their normal 34.7 inches of rainfall. More important, the year 2000 also holds the record for the longest period of 84 days between rainfall. 1999 holds 4th place. While this is surely bad, it still gets a little worse.

In 1997, 2002 and 2004 we drowned many of the remaining tree roots. I think that 2004 was the 7th wettest year out of the past 109 years.

That is why we have so many sick, dead, and dying trees

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

It's time to pot your favorite native plant in order to have it ready to bring to the annual October Progressive Plant Swap.

However, if you do not have a plant to bring or a pot to put it in, please come to the meeting anyway. There will be lots of plants available for all to share.

A few of the pledged plants are: cowpen daisy and iron weed seeds, golden leadball tree, Mexican bird of paradise, American beautyberry, Lindheimer senna, Texas mountain laurel, chile pequine, scarlet buckeye, Texas sage, oakleaf hydrangea, esperanza, skeleton-leaf golden eye, datura, desert willow. That's more than a dozen plants pledged from two people.

The President's Corner *continued from page 1*

in North Central Texas. Their natural defenses are shot. We will still have several years of dying trees after we lose the extreme weather. These additional tree deaths will be blamed on bores, beetles, Oak Wilt, Hypoxylon Canker, etc. The real problem is a decade of extreme weather. How much money will we spend at the garden centers unsuccessfully trying far too late to save our trees, while polluting our water supply. Ironically, the only thing that could have helped our trees was water. The most important thing to remember is to replant with natives. Just not with Live Oaks or Red Oaks (Oak Wilt).

Let us pray that these weather extremes are about over or at least will slow down. Ask me about my views on adding 17 new proposed coal-fired power plants to our already brown Texas air (heavy sigh).

We're entering the very best time of year to plant natives, so let's talk about our October meeting.

How will our October "Progressive Native Plant Swap" work? We all bring a native plant to the meeting. There will be several extra native plants available at the meeting. When you get to the meeting, you will notice that all the chairs are in a circle. We then sit around and take turns describing the plants we brought and how to grow them. After this great information session is over, we then place all of our plants on the tables and we each draw a number. The person with the lowest number gets their pick of the plants. The next lowest number gets their pick from what is left on the tables or from those that have already been chosen. If your plant gets nabbed by someone, you get to pick another plant from the table or snag someone else's plant. No you can't grab back the plant that was your original choice. Plants can only be chosen three times. After three times they are locked and are out of the game.

Why should you come? This is often our most informative event of the season. While some plants will be store bought and that's fine, most are our member's favorite plants out of their own yards. If you have questions about one of the plants I bet someone will have the answer.

Please try to make sure that the plant that you bring to the meeting has growing instructions accompanying it. Yes, you would be the first person to ever paraphrase the Native Texas Plants Landscaping Region by Region book by Sally & Andy Wasowski. There will be several copies of their book at the meeting.

If it blooms, yet isn't blooming now, try to bring a picture of the bloom. Even a bad print is still useful. We (Native Plant Society of Texas) have permission to use Lady Bird Johnson's Wildflower center pictures. Check them out at www.wildflower.org

I hope to see you at our meeting on Thursday, October 12th, and thanks for growing natives,

John Bridges

Native Plant Propagation Marilyn Sallee



Skeletonleaf goldeneye: lacy, sunny yellow, and drought and heat tough. *Viguiera stenoloba* is a little yellow daisy that is easily propagated by seeds or from late summer cuttings. It is also known as golden bush and resin bush.

The plant forms a fine, feathery mound of leaves, carrying yellow-petal golden center daisy-like flowers high on slim stems. It blooms throughout the summer and heavily after rains and in the fall. It forms a clump 2-3 feet wide and high in full to mostly sunny spots.

Once established it takes full sun, extreme dry, poor soil, and extreme heat. Skeletonleaf goldeneye can be a low shrub or ground cover. It is easy to grow, but do not overwater. It prefers rocky, well-drained soil.

Cut back the plant to maintain a dense shrub form. Resists deer browsing; good butterfly larvae food source. Semi-evergreen; may freeze to ground, but

comes back from roots.

Propagation by seed is preferred: Gather seed heads as they dry in summer and dry them on screens. Sow in ground in late fall or winter, rake lightly and water in well.

With care and work, Golden-eye can also be propagated by softwood tip cuttings taken from new growth in April-June or August-October. Young, fresh, 2-3 inch cuttings should be treated with IBA and kept under mist in separate pots. They are typically slow to root with a low success rate. See Nokes, cited below, for details.

Source: *How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest* – Revised by Jill Nokes

The Molly Hollar Wildscape John Dycus

Fall has finally arrived, and never has it been so welcome. With it come exciting possibilities for the wildscape.

From a small beginning 12 years ago with half an acre, Molly Hollar and her wildscape wonder crew are on the cusp of completing basic planting in nearly four acres — a milestone in wildscape history. Led by propagation leader Pat Lovejoy, the volunteers have grown hundreds of plants, enough to finish covering the bare places. Most of the plants have been grown from seed and cuttings collected within 50 miles, so they are adapted to local conditions of heat, cold, rainfall and soil.

Late September through October is the best time to plant in North Texas because it's cooler with the highest chances of natural moisture. Still, my dad used to say it's hard to get rain in a drought. If it rains, great. Molly likes the odds and suggests increasing the planting in October.

Another argument for maximum planting now is the tenuous condition of the greenhouse. It is old and little used but has been kept functional by Arlington Parks & Rec (hooray for Heather Dowell!) in spite of complications, mostly for wildscape benefit. Getting these plants in the ground this fall rather than wintering them in the greenhouse would eliminate stress for Parks & Rec personnel.

Therefore, more volunteers are needed. And there will be no plant sale this fall, to allow the volunteers more time for planting.

Choose any Saturday morning this month. Planting should be easy, with the plants in quart and gallon containers. Bring gloves, shovels and trowels if you have them. Water, coffee and snacks will be provided, as usual.

From Molly, the last word: "Please find a Saturday morning to come and help move the wildscape a giant leap forward while enjoying the birds, butterflies, lizards, turtles, dragonflies and other wonderful wildlife during this lovely fall."



Fall/winter hours beginning in October: 9 a.m.-noon
 Tuesday mornings: 9 a.m.-noon
 Saturday mornings during remainder of 2006:
 9 a.m.-noon
 October
 Only: any Saturday
 1st Sat.: Oct. 7
 2nd Sat.: Oct. 14
 3d Sat: Oct. 21
 4th Sat.: Oct. 28
 November:
 1st Saturday: Nov. 4
 December:
 1st Saturday: Dec. 2

Thanks for the September Meeting Door Prizes

- Desert Willow - Gailon Hardin
- Calloway's Arlington - Salvia Farinacea, Mexican Bush Sage
- Main Street Home & Garden - Gift Certificate
- Weston Gardens - Gift Certificate
- Green Mama's - Gift Certificate
- Redenta's Garden - Gift Certificate
- Marshall Grain - Gift Certificate
- Merita Knapp - Garbage Bags

And special thanks to Hester for the outstanding spread of food from native plants.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 12
7:00 pm
Fort Worth
Botanic Gardens

The Annual Progressive
Plant Swap

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
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or information about
contributing to the
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the newsletter editor.

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articles for inclusion in next
month's newsletter is the
15th of every month.

John Darling, Editor
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