



NPSOT News

North Central Texas

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter
Volume 25, Number 5, June, 2013

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The President's Corner Theresa Kay Thomas

A newsletter is of importance to our chapter for several reasons. A few of these are the feeling of community of like-minded individuals that it provides, education of novice native plant lovers about Texas plants like myself, keeping members informed about what is happening in the Chapter and contact with the state organization and its initiatives. The North Central Chapter has attempted to produce a newsletter every month except perhaps in January and July when the chapter does not meet. A motion was made at the May meeting and postponed for the present to change to a quarterly newsletter. The reasons for this are several: finding members to write articles and timeliness of input of articles to the newsletter editor being the most pertinent. Since this decision directly affects each member, we asking that you attend the June meeting so that you can vote on this important change.

Note: There is no July meeting.

Chapter Leaders

Theresa Thomas - President
kayleetl@sbcglobal.net
Starr Krottinger - Vice President
(Programs)
Gailon Hardin - Treasurer
ghardin@flash.net
Martha Mullens- Secretary
Patti Maness- NICE! Coordinator
Frank Keeney - Communications
webmaster@txnativeplants.org
Gailon Hardin & Dawn Hancock -
Southwest Subcourthouse
Garden Leaders
Theresa Thomas & Bill Hall -
Hulen Regional Library
Garden Leader
Nancy Price - Hospitality Chair
Char McMorrow - Membership
Chair
Dawn Hancock - Parliamentarian
Molly Hollar - Molly Hollar
Wildscape Garden Leader

The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote the conservation, research, and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example.

Visit us at
ncnpsot.org and
txnativeplants.org

June meeting

Thursday, June 6, 7:00 pm
Orchid Room, Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center,
Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

Program: From Lawns to Native Plant Gardens

The June program will be presented by Josephine and Frank Keeney, and it will help us learn how best to change our lawns to native plant gardens. Josephine and Frank are active NPSOT members as well as being active in other organizations that focus on keeping things natural! This will be a practical learning experience for those of us who would like to incorporate more native plants in our yards but aren't sure how best to proceed.

Plant of the Month Josephine Keeney

Four-nerve daisy, *Tetranneuris scaposa*, Asteraceae

What a lovely little plant Four-nerve daisy is!

Besides being a perennial and evergreen, which is a virtue in itself, and blooming almost non-stop all year long, it requires very little water and care other than cutting the spent flowers to encourage continuous bloom. Four-nerve daisy is a slow grower but once established it keeps on going with almost no care.

I have seen it blooming in the dead of winter, when no color can be found in the garden, cheering the heart of the gardener who had the foresight to put it there.

The plant is only about six inches tall, and the flowers grow on solitary stems making the entire plant about one foot tall or less.

It usually makes a clump about twelve inches wide, so the compact shape makes it ideal for sunny edges and keeps it very neat.

The bright yellow ray flowers are three-toothed and if you look closely you can see the four veins or nerves on both sides of the ray, hence the name.

All in all this is a lovely little plant that has been ignored by the nurseries and should be used more often.



Find more native plant information at www.texasstar.org, a forum for Texas gardeners dedicated to the cultivation and propagation of Texas native plants.

North Central Chapter News Dawn Hancock

Three members of North Central Chapter journeyed to Glen Rose to welcome Prairie Rose Chapter to NPSOT. Gailon Hardin presented *Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region by Region* to the new president. Dawn Hancock brought many back issues of "NPSOT News" to be distributed to the charter members. Char McMorrow was the intrepid driver and navigator, taking us to Glen Rose by the Old Granbury Highway. We were delighted to see that Prairie Rose had a large gathering of charter members and potential members at this meeting.

North Central Chapter had its spring plant sale in conjunction

with the Fort Worth Botanical Society on April 6. All 808 plants were contributed by our members who spent many hours propagating or rescuing native plants from their property. Our contributors were Gailon Hardin, Josephine Keeney, Merita Knapp, Dagmar Higgins, Martha Mullens, and Patti Maness.

Other members worked the sale by directing buyers to plants to fill their landscape requirements telling each buyer about the needs of the plants and how to use them in their own landscapes. Those worthy members were Frank Keeney, Nancy Price, Patti Maness, Gailon Hardin, Merita

Knapp, Char McMorrow, Laura Penn, Charlotte Hughes, Sheila Franklin, Bill Hall, and Josephine Keeney, who is North Central Chapter's coordinator of plant sales.

Dawn Hancock provided caffeine and glucose jolts to the salespersons by bringing coffee and kolaches.

North Central Chapter realized a net profit of \$1263.75 to be used in the chapter's outreach efforts. Two examples among many endeavors that North Central Chapter supports are providing a \$100 award at the local regional science fair and being a sponsor of Friends of Tandy Hills Natural Area.

The North Central Chapter Welcomes New Members!

Gus Guthrie, Lauren Labar, Carolyn Lombard, Jackie Peel, Debra Rosenthal, and Diana Vincenti

Prairie to the People Dawn Hancock

Do you like music? Do you like beer? Do you enjoy the sight of prairie flowers in bloom? So where were you during Prairie Fest?

Everyone knows what Prairie Fest is...right? No? Well, it is the premier event of the spring season for Tandy Hills Natural Area and everyone in Fort Worth and surrounding areas is invited free.

You just show up and have fun. Kids have special hikes and events especially for them. Parents and lovers can hike the prairie with Master Naturalists leading the way. North Central Chapter was there, giving out the recommended native plant list for this area and also an article on the wild invasive cabbage.

We were being serenaded the whole time by live bands. Kids were playing, dogs were barking and sniffing, Frisbees were flying, and people were hiking the prairie. It just doesn't get any better than this, so put this event on your bucket list for next year.



Native Plants Vs Invasive Lookalikes Troy Mullens

Western Soapberry vs. Chinaberry

Some invasive plants are difficult to distinguish from our native flora. However, there are usually a few easily recognized distinguishing characteristics to help us in our investigations.

Why care? Non-native or invasive plants have the potential to not only compete, but to do serious damage to our native plant communities and upset the delicately balanced ecosystems.

This first in a series of continuing articles will focus on two very close lookalikes. Western Soapberry vs. Chinaberry.

Once you have determined that you have the full leaf in hand, the battle is won. The fruits, depending on growing conditions, may look quite similar. In winter you may have to look under the tree to find a leaf.

The native Western soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*) has a once-pinnately compound leaf with up to 18 leaflets.

The exotic invasive Chinaberry (*Melia azederach*) has a bi-pinnately compound leaf. In simple terms, it is a compound-compound leaf.

As you can see, the Chinaberry leaf is much more complex.

An interesting excerpt From the April, 1960 issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine: "Robin Redbreast is a drunkard in the winter. It's the chinaberry tree that proved his downfall. It seems that Mr. Robin (and Mrs. Robin, too) don't realize the potency of chinaberries after they ferment in the warm Texas sunshine. Areas where the berry trees grow have become regular robin 'bars' where dozens of intoxicated robins can be seen staggering and flopping about."



Thank You Dawn Hancock

These members gave their time fulfilling NPSOT's mission statement by educating the public at the April events:

Gailon Hardin and Hester Schwarzer volunteered at UTA's Earth Day celebration, Celebrating Planet and People. They handed out our list of recommended plants

for North Central Texas to students and faculty.

Jim and Patti Maness, Bill Hall, Frank and Josephine Keeney, and Nancy and Rick Price educated families at Prairie Fest at Tandy Hills Natural Area, and Gailon Hardin sold native plants at the same event. As soon as attendees

learned which native plants were would work for them, they could immediately buy the plant.

Thank you to Hester Schwarzer for providing the canopy and to Jim and Patti Maness for table and chairs. Thanks to Gailon for providing our volunteers with water to quench their thirst.

Next Meeting
Thursday, June 6
7:00 pm
Fort Worth
Botanic Gardens

Josephine & Frank
Keeney

From Lawns to
Native Plant Gardens

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 or more)	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65+)	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$500
		<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$1000

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 County: _____
 Phone: _____
 Chapter Affiliation: North Central Chapter
 e-mail: _____

The North Central Texas
NPSOT News

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 the newsletter is the 15th of every preceding month.

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