



NPSOT News

North Central Texas

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter
Volume 24, Number 11, November 2012

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The President's Corner Nancy Laine Price, PhD

Am I the only one who didn't know that the yellow rose of Texas is a cactus? That fact is just one that I learned at the NPSOT convention in Kerrville.

One area of concern discussed there is the lack of pollinators, a key component of global diversity. For instance, we have lost one-third of the monarchs since the nineties, according to Monarch Watch. The use of Roundup in soybean and corn fields and the use of pesticides in mosquito control are two of the main reasons. Why? Because of the milkweed that dies. Solution: plant milkweed, either butterfly weed or antelope horns (above), and discourage the use of chemicals. Plant frostweed as a larval plant for monarchs. Above all, engage the children in Monarch Watch so that they can and will grow up to protect our pollinators. More on Monarch Watch later.



Our fall Native Plant Sale was a success — \$2345! Thanks to Gailon Hardin and Josephine Keeney, Patty Maness, and Merita Knapp who spearheaded the sale, along with Charlotte, Dagmar, Dawn (who provided kolaches and coffee), Frank, Bill, and Nancy. Thank you!

Chapter Leaders

- Nancy Price - President
nprice@uta.edu
- Starr Krottinger - Vice President (Programs)
- Gailon Hardin - Treasurer
ghardin@flash.net
- Theresa Thomas - Secretary
- Tracy Bryant - NICE! Coordinator
- Frank Keeney - Communications
webmaster@txnativeplants.org
- Gailon Hardin - Southwest Subcourthouse Garden Leader
- Theresa Thomas - Hulen Regional Library Garden Leader
- Patty Maness - Hospitality & Field Trips
- Dawn Hancock - Parliamentarian
- Molly Hollar - Molly Hollar Wildscape Garden Leader
molly@thewildscape.org

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

November meeting

Thursday, November 1, 7:00 pm
Orchid Room, Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center,
Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

Program: For our November program we once again tap the resources at BRIT. Our speaker is Barney Lipscomb, who is one of the authors of the *Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas*.

He has created a delightful program on Murderous Plants: Poisonous Herbs in our World. It stretches our native plant parameters just a bit, but the program is fun and includes many plants that can be found in Texas, native or not.

Barney is one of the moving forces at BRIT and it is an honor to have him speak at our assembly.

Plant of the Month Josephine Keeney

Milkweed vine, Fringed Twinevine, *Funastrum cynanchoides cynanchoides*

This plant is a fast growing native perennial vine that can grow up to twenty feet with many tendrils, then it dies to the ground in the winter and comes back in spring with renewed vigor and strength.

I was very thrilled to find this vine because I have great hopes of being able to provide the Monarch butterflies with all of the milkweed they might want and need.

So far I haven't found eggs or larvae on it, but I have fed the leaves to the caterpillars I have raised, and they have eaten it just fine and have gone on to pupate and become butterflies with no problems.

The flowers on my plants are white, although there can be some variation in the color with some having a purplish tint. The structure of the flowers is just like all milkweed blooms and is very pretty.

It is easy to propagate cuttings in water. I have great hopes for this plant being able to keep our butterfly gardens supplied with milkweed all season long.

This is a wonderful alternative for those of us who have trouble growing other native milkweeds.



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

Native Plant Workdays

Southwest Subcourthouse on Granbury Road in Fort Worth 2nd Saturday and last Wednesday of each month beginning at 9:00 am. Gailon Hardin in charge

Hulen Street Regional Library in Fort Worth 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning at 9:00 am. Evaline Woodrey in charge

Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park in Arlington Wednesdays and the first Saturday of each month beginning at 9:00 am (winter hours)

Tuesdays at the greenhouse in Randol Mill Park in Arlington beginning at 9:00 am

From the Editor John Darling

I've been your newsletter editor for almost 10 years and there have been two things that keep me doing this job. The first is easy: I believe in the mission.

The second is much harder. Somewhere I got the idea that newsletters are (or can be) relevant to the people who receive them, otherwise they wouldn't be worth the time and effort.

But here's the hard part: Newsletters depend on contributions from members. An editor can only work with contributions, and since Dawn Hancock's fine series on NICE! nurseries ended, we've often dropped to about three monthly items — the President's message, a meeting announcement, and Josephine's excellent Plant of the Month pieces.

That's just not enough information considering that we're involved in at least two public native landscapes that should be featured with some text and a few photos every month. In addition, we must have enough members with native home landscapes to have one featured every month, again with a little text and a few photos. Also, there should be news about special events, for example, our participation in home and garden shows, Prairie Fest, plant sales, or local or regional conferences. Those of us who discover books on native plant landscaping can contribute valuable short reviews. I know this is true; it happened once.

For some time I included a page every month from my other

newsletter that reported volunteer efforts at the Molly Hollar Wildscape. I stopped after hearing a complaint from a NPSOT member about seeing the same thing in two newsletters. But considering the small overlap in membership of the two groups, I am thinking about starting it up again. Please let me know if you would prefer to see it. If I don't hear anything, I suppose I'll flip a coin.

This message is much too long, especially for an editor. I should just say that I need contributions — regular and otherwise — in order to produce a newsletter that makes me think it's worth doing. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. Send contributions to 1darling@sbcglobal.net.

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 1
7:00 pm
Fort Worth
Botanic Gardens

Barney Lipscomb

Murderous 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

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual (65+)	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Group	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple (one 65+)	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250
		<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$500
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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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