May Program by Bill Neiman & Friends

"Become Native to Your Place With Native American Seed"
President’s Corner by Gordon Scruggs ..................... p. 3ff
Flower of the Month, American Germander
by Josephine Keeney ........................................ p. 8f
Activities & Volunteering for May 2021
by Martha Mullens ............................................ p. 10f
Everything you need to know about Wildflowers
by Martha Mullens ............................................. p. 11
Answer to last month’s puzzle and a new puzzle ..... p. 12
May Calendar” Page by Troy Mullens....................... p. 13
Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife
Book review by Martha Mullens ......................... p. 14
Best Plants for Novices by Martha Mullens .......... p. 15
April Program review .............................................. p. 16f
Membership Report by Beth Barber ...................... p. 18
Habitat for pollinators ........................................... p. 22
Monarch waystation by Kim Conrow ................. p. 23
Demo Garden and resources By Kim Conrow ..... p. 24
Prairie verbena by Karen Harden ....................... p. 25
Palafaxia by Martha Mullens ................................. p. 26f
Native Plants in My Garden by Jeanette Hyden .... p. 28f
Breadroot by Hollie Carron .................................. p. 30f
Paradise lost by Eric Strickland ......................... p. 32f
Tom Salmi .......................................................... P. 35ff
Recommended Plants List (Complete) ................. p. 38f
This Year’s Programs by Morgan Chivers ........... p. 40
Prairie Verbena, NICE! Plant of the Season (Spring)
by Dr. Becca Dickstein ...................................... p. 41
Spring Plant Sale by Sandy Fountain ................. p. 42
Join NPSOT, Mission Statement, next Meeting .... p. 43
Newsletter Submission Requirements ................. p. 43

Questions, Comments?
Use this link below!
Info@txnativeplants.org
I hope you and your family are well. All winter I have been anticipating the beauty of the spring wildflowers. I was overjoyed in early March when my first bloom was a Four nerve daisy / *Tetraneuris scaposa*. Now joining the daisies are Sundrops (Day primrose) / *Oenothera (Calylophus) berlandieri*, Texas paintbrush / *Castilleja indivisa*, Autumn sage / *Salvia greggii*, Engelmann daisy / *Engelmanna peristenia*, Yellow prairie flax / *Linum berlandieri*, Horseherb / *Conyza oanadensis*, Cedar sage / *Salvia roemenia*, Texas thistle / *Cirsium texanum*, and, the NICE! plant of the season, Prairie verbena / *Glandularia bipinnatifida*.

My excitement has turned to elation upon observing the many milkweeds sprouting in my gardens. I have written several articles in the Newsletter expressing my frustration with my inability to cultivate the two common North Texas native milkweeds, Green milkweed / *Asclepias viridis* and Antelope horns milkweed / *A. asperula* (see the May and November 2020 Newsletters). My frustration culminated last spring and I decided on the shotgun approach. This approach is simple, plant an outrageous number of milkweeds all over the gardens and some are bound to survive my poor cultivation techniques!

So I planted 29 Green milkweeds, spreading them around in the front Cedar elm garden, south side garden, and backyard garden. I ordered the milkweed through Monarch Watch and they arrived on April 11, 2020. They only cost about $2.30 each and came as 1- to 3-inch tall seedlings. This is the same program Morgan Chivers took orders for last year and was taking orders for early this year. My frustration culminated last spring and I decided on the shotgun approach. This approach is simple, plant an outrageous number of milkweeds all over the gardens and some are bound to survive my poor cultivation techniques!

Two were planted in the front Cedar elm garden. Okay, I broke my “grouping rule”, but I can always come back later and add more milkweeds. These are under a large double trunked native Cedar elm / *Ulmus crassifolia* and a non-native Crapemyrtle / *Lagerstroemia indica* (commonly referred to as a Crap myrtle). Under the canopy of the Cedar elm, they will only receive about 4 hours of direct sunlight. However, it will be in the heat of the day. Five were planted in the south side garden. This garden is visible from our dining room through a large double window that extends almost to the floor. Although it only receives about four hours of direct sunlight, the sunlight in the spring and fall is reflected and intensified off the double window. Plants that require full sun thrive in this garden. The other 22 plants were scattered in groups around the backyard garden. This includes four plants under the canopy of a large Bois d’arc (Osage orange) / *Maclura pomifera* tree in my neighbor’s backyard and three plants under a neighbor’s Water oak / *Quercus nigra*.

Continued on Page 4
The Monarch Watch site has a lot of good information about how to plant milkweeds. One thing I picked up on was that it was important for the roots to have contact with the surrounding soil when planted. So I looked at how to make a hole that matched the size of the seedling pot. I found that by driving a 1 x 2 stake in the ground to the depth of the seedling pot and twisting it, the desired size hole was achieved. I planted after a spring rain so the ground was moist. After making the hole, I cut the seedling out of the pot with scissors and carefully placed the milkweed seedling in the hole. I then pushed down on the surrounding soil to try to fill any voids between the seedling’s roots and the soil.

Then I gently pushed the potting soil around the seedling down about ¼-inch below the ground surface and placed soil from my garden to bring the grade around the seedling level with the surrounding ground. The potting soil is like a sponge; my topsoil is clay. I wanted a small clay cap over the potting soil to prevent too much rainfall runoff from entering the potting soil. My concern was the potting soil with surrounding clay would act like a reservoir during a storm, causing the milkweed’s roots to be in water. For watering during the late spring, early fall, and hot summer months, I checked soil moisture around the plants every three to four days after rainfall and/or watering. I would push my finger about ½-inch or more into the soil. When it was hard, I would water with about two cups of water per plant. Do not pour the water directly on the plant; pour it in about a four to six inch radius on the ground around the plant. I did not do any individual plant watering after it started raining in October.

As mentioned in previous articles, I only water after dry spells and use no pesticides. Where it is feasible, I remove taller plants around the milkweeds unless they are on the north side. Sometimes I have to trim the leaves or stems on the plants on the north side of the milkweeds so the direct sunlight is not blocked. I place smaller native flowering plants around the milkweeds like Yellow prairie flax / Linum berlandieri, Greenthread daisy / Thelesperma filifolium, Texas paintbrush / Castilleja indivisa, Prairie verbena / Glandularia bipinnatifida, Windflowers (Ten-Petal Anemone) / Anemone berlandieri, and Meadow pinks / Sabatia campestris.

Mulch is limited to light leaf litter, except for seven of the plants in the back garden that were planted in groundcover that is a mixture of Frogfruit / Phyla nodiflora and Horseherb / Calyptocarpus vialis. Because this winter was in severe drought in Tarrant County, the groundcover stayed low until the rain in March. Of the seven plants in the groundcover, four have not come up as yet.

Interesting fact is that the pandemic likely improved my cultivation techniques. Because we took no trips and stayed home most of the time in 2020, I was very consistent in my gardening, and particularly, with cultivating the milkweeds.

Now a year later, I have confirmed 21 of the 29 Green milkweeds have survived to this spring. This is a 72% success rate to date. Based on my past experience, I am amazed to have such great success for the first year.

I have them all flagged and numbered for identification. I began keeping a detailed photographic record of individual milkweeds this spring. I have attached some photos. One thing I have learned over the last four years is that to have any success at cultivating milkweed, you have to stay in it for the long haul. This next year it will be interesting to see if any of these Green milkweeds bloom this summer, if there will be any monarch caterpillars, and how many survive to next spring.

My count to date this spring is a total of 41 milkweeds in my gardens. There are three non-native Tropical milkweeds / A. curassavica, two questionable-native Common milkweeds / A. syriaca, 11 Butterflyweeds / A. tuberosa, one Antelope horns milkweed / A. asperula, and 24 Green milkweeds / A. viridis. Three of the Green milkweeds were planted years ago and have never bloomed or gotten more than about 4-inces tall. The Antelope horns milkweed was planted four years ago and was almost a foot tall last year, but did not flower. Last fall I had my first Monarch butterfly caterpillars on one of the Tropical milkweeds located in the backyard garden next to Gregg’s mistflower / Conoclinium greggii. One of the Common milkweeds looks like it may have the
beginnings of the first flowers. If it flowers, it will be the first blooms on these milkweeds since they were planted two years ago.

I hope this information is useful to you. If you have any questions or just want to talk natives, please contact me at president@txnativeplants.org.

Continued on Page 6
Continued from Page 5

1862 Pallet of 50 Green milkweed seedlings from Monarch Watch April 2020

1993 Green milkweed #14 in backyard garden near fence October 2020

2535 Green milkweed planting tools, a 1 x 2 stake and large hammer

2767 Green milkweed #14 March 2021

3080 Green milkweed #1 April 2021

3082 Green milkweed #14 April 2021
Continued from Page 6

Looks like an Orange sulfur butterfly on a Four nerve daisy / *Tetraneuris scaposa*

Prairie verbena / *Glandularia bipinnatifida*

Four nerve daisy / *Tetraneuris*

Cedar Sage / *Salvia roemeriana*

Engelmann (cutleaf) daisy / *Engelmannia peristenia*

Sundrop (Day primrose) / *Oenothera berlandieri*

Yellow prairie flax / *Linum berlandieri*

Texas paintbrush / *Castilleja indivisa*

Texas thistle / *Cirsium texanum*

Wine cup / *Callirhoe pedata*

Autumn sage / *Salvia greggii*

Horseherb / *Calyptocarpus vialis*
American Germander, *Teucrium canadense*
Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

Watch your garden closely if you decide to plant this Germander!

This vigorous perennial of the mint family will spread like wildfire and cover all the bare areas in record time. This habit can be a blessing if you have areas that need erosion control, while at the same time beautifying the space.

Another good point about this plant is that if you want to remove it from your garden it is not hard at all to pull it out, although you may need to be persistent and do it more than once.

The flowers grow in long spikes and resemble those of salvia; they are white with a little touch of pink on the lower lip.

Besides being a super ground cover this plant also provides lots of nectar for bees and butterflies who flock to the flowers.

This plant likes part shade and moisture and blooms from April to July in our area of Texas. It is very wide spread covering basically all of North America.

All things considered I think American Germander is an excellent ground cover as well as a great nectar plant.

*by Josephine Keeney*
American Germander — Flower of the Month for May

Continued from Page 8

Growing wild

Photographs by Josephine Keeney

In the Garden

Small plant
Some activities are being allowed with restrictions. Programs listed may be cancelled, rescheduled or changed to online due to covid-19. Check with the sponsors. Restrictions: social distancing, masks required for entry, screening before entry.

North Central Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas  www.txnativeplants.org
Thurs., May 6: 6:30 PM * zoom: Become Native to Your Place with Native American Seed by Bill Neiman
  *Note different online format.
Tuesday, May 25  board meeting 6:30 PM zoom
Field Trip: Sat., May 15 10:00 AM Dalworthington Gardens Erick Strickland property

Native Prairies Association of Texas Fort Worth Chapter
Most in-person hikes, events, tours and meet-ups cancelled.
Mon., May 10: 7 PM zoom: Silphium study at Tandy Hills Natural Area by Bruce Benz of Texas Wesleyan University
Check website for events and field trips fwnpat@gmail.com

Cross Timbers Master Naturalist    FWBG  http://www.ctmn.org/
No in-person meetings. No in-person group activities.
Mon., May 17 7:00 -8:30PM zoom: Update from TMN program by Michelle Haggerty & Mary Pearl Meuth

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association https://tarrantmg.org/
Live meetings suspended until further notice.
May 6 9:30 AM Zoom online meeting: Texas Conservation Alliance by Ben Jones
TX A & M AgriLife Water University offers free online classes. Registration required.
May 13 6-8 PM Water Saving Seminars: Plant Combos & Companions
Check website for details. wateruniversity.tamu.edu
Aggie Horticulture Courses online AgriLife Courses online

Fort Worth Botanic Garden https://www.fwbg.org/
General admission ($12) open regular hours. Tickets sold online.
Programs check with office. Pre-registration.
Classes are limited to 15 outdoors with 6 feet between participants. Mask use encouraged.
May 1-June 30 10:00 AM Topiaries in the Garden members free/regular admission
May 1-Dec. 31 9:00 AM-3:PM Self-Guided Exploration $6 registered/$12 unregistered
May 1-Fri., Dec. 31 2:30 PM Stickwork: artist Patrick Dougherty weaves plants into sculptures
  free for Members/regular admission to nonmembers
May 1 9:30-10:30 AM Art in the Garden Tours

BRIT https://www.brit.org/ Some onsite educational programs are available. Some programs will be online.
email questions to tfriday@brit.org.
Workshops: In-person classes are limited to 15, have restrictions of 6 feet between participants and most are conducted outdoors.
Mask use is encouraged outdoors and required indoors.
Sat., May 1: 1-2:30 PM online Grow Your Own Cut Flower Garden $25mem/$30 non

Xerces Society webinar May 6 12-1:30 PM Supporting Pollinators over Time: How to Maintain Wildflower Diversity

Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge https://www.fwnaturecenter.org/
Hardwick Interpretive Center closed. Admission tickets for all visits must be purchased online in advance of visit. $6 adults, children $2, seniors $3. Instructions on website. Masks required. Social distance 6 feet. Limit 10 in group. No reservations required for admission Monday-Friday, but required for weekends and CFW holidays.

Activities for $5/members free. Pre-registration required.
NATURE HIKES: May 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,1 0,1 1, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31 9-10:30 AM
Hike: Specifically for wildflowers.

Wed., May 5: 11 AM-noon A Day in the Life of Turtles
Thur., May 6: 11 AM-noon Moth or butterfly Hike
Wed., May 12 11 Am-noon Pollinators of the Prairie
Thurs., May 13 11 AM-2 PM Hardcore Hiking (6.5 miles)
May 2021 Volunteer Opportunities   -  by Martha Mullens

Our chapter, nor the state NPSOT, cannot sponsor, encourage or plan any in-person (large group) meetings, events or demonstration garden activities indoors or outdoors at this time, according to Gordon Scruggs, Chapter President.

Workdays or events may be cancelled or rescheduled due to the corona virus covid-19. Check with the leader of each group.

As the weather warms and we want to get outside and volunteer, remember there are restrictions: Small groups can work at our demonstration gardens if social distancing is practiced, volunteers wear masks and bring their own tools.

Contact leaders for more information.

Leader: Josephine Kenney
Fielder House Butterfly Garden   1616 W Abram St, Arlington   2nd & 4th Mon.
Molly Hollar Wildscape Veterans Park, Arlington   1st Sat.
Knapp Heritage Park Pollinator Garden  201 West Front Street, Arlington  1st Monday
OS Gray Natural Area 2021 Abram St., Arlington   2nd Sat.
Volunteer Manager: Sherrie Ripple   or contact Josephine Keeney   3rd Mon.
River Legacy Park  701 NW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington
Leader: Theresa Thomas   2nd & 4th Thursdays April 22 8:30 AM-12:00 noon
Native Gardens at SW Regional Library at Hulen  4001 Library Ln, Fort Worth

Leaders Gailon Hardin, Dawn Hancock   2nd Sat. & last Wed.
SW Tarrant Co. Sub Courthouse   6551 Granbury Rd, Fort Worth

Volunteer Coordinator: Kenneth Nailey   Kenneth.Nailey@fortworthtexas.gov
Volunteer Positions: Docent, Outdoor Conservationist (Natural Guard). Restoration Greenhouse, Visitor Center Host, Special Events, Animal Care

Volunteer at White Settlement Monarch Waystation
8215 White Settlement Road
Leader: Tom  Salmi   Workdays will be announced by email.

Volunteer for Native Prairies Association Fort Worth   npat.wordpress.com

Volunteer at BRIT 1700 University Dr, Fort Worth 76107
GROW Volunteer Coordinator (BRIT & Fort Worth Botanic Garden)
To volunteer: go to brit.org, pull down bar “Get Involved”, click on Volunteer, click on “Become a Volunteer” and fill out an application.
Director of Volunteers: Montana Williams, 817-546-1846
Volunteer Coordinator: Veronica Marquez, 817-392-5543
All emails inquiries: volunteer@brit.org
New Quiz

An easy one.

Think breakfast

Answer to Last Months Quiz

Brazos Penstemon

Penstemon tenuis

Send answer or request answer at info@txnativeplants.com
Roughleaf Dogwood
By Martha Mullens
Though rough, the upper side of leaves, Underneath is velvety soft, In fall, colors turn purple red.

From creamy buds, blooms are expected, but white fruit is quite a surprise. Birds and butterflies realize what treasures are these showy trees.

May 2021
If you are interested in attracting birds to your feeders, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other insects to your flowers, this is an excellent 387-page resource to help you. It is crammed full of useful information for the beginner, as well as the experienced gardener.

The authors begin by introducing Wildscaping in Part One. Chapter One defines what a wildscape is and why it is necessary. Chapter Two discusses with maps the ecological regions of Texas. Chapter Three explains and shows photos the basics of wildlife habitat. Chapter Four is about designing your wildscape. There are numerous drawings to illustrate designs for different purposes.

Part Two is Gardening Tips for Texas Critters. Chapters Five and Six are about birds. This includes photos of the birds and information about their specific requirements. Chapter Seven is specially about hummingbirds. Chapter Eight includes mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Chapter Nine explains the benefits of insects and spiders. This includes a chart of butterfly species with nectar plant sources and larval food plants.

Part Three is Garden Troubleshooting. This encompasses unwanted guests Chapter Ten. Chapter Eleven discusses special areas, such as shady and wet areas, and dealing with deer. Chapter Twelve deals with exotics and invasives. There is a 7-page glossary of terms.

Part Four is entitled Appendix, but it covers the biggest percentage of the book because in chart form with descriptions of habitats and which ecological regions in Texas where they are found are 40 pages listing the birds, including hummingbirds, 2 pages of mammals, and 6 pages of reptiles and amphibians. Animals are listed alphabetically.

The remaining 186 pages are concerned with native plants. These are arranged by families more-or-less alphabetically and species alphabetically within the family. Each species has information on the ecological region and description of the plant, flower and fruit with habitat and soil information, plus ornamental value and wildlife value. The authors begin with trees, then grasses, then flowering plants. However, sometimes trees are interspersed.

There is no appendix with which to look up specific plants so you spend a great deal of time looking. This is my main criticism.

The book is readily available at Amazon, eBay and Half-Price Books for $5 to $12 depending on the condition. It was published in 1999 by Texas Parks and Wildlife Press.
Best Plants for Novices  by Martha Mullens

What are the best plants for novices?  
by Martha Mullens

Do you wonder which native plants to purchase at our plant sale May 8?


I would like to add my observations. All of these plants that I recommend survived our bad cold spell. They are all perennials. Two great ground covers that will grow in shade or sun and in sand or clay are horse herb, *Calyptocarpus vialis*, and white avens, *Geum canadense*. Both of which are both drought and cold resistant, and evergreen. A tall plant that hummingbirds and insects love that will grow in sun or shade and sand or clay is turk’s cap. Another plant for sun or shade and that is evergreen is lyre-leaf sage, *Salvia lyrata*. It does prefer clay soil. White yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*, is another good choice because even when it is not blooming, the fern-like leaves are very pretty. Autumn sage, *Salvia greggii*, is always a good choice for sun or shade. Gregg’s mistflower, *Conoclinium greggii*, is a magnate for butterflies and will grow in shade or sun. Plants for dry landscapes are Mexican feather grass, *Nasselia tenulissima*, and red yucca, *Hesperaloe parviflora*. These plants are almost fool proof.

I gave some advice for preparing your yard to receive these plants in the July 2018 issue of NCCNPSOT newsletter found in the archives on our website. Also, there is information about the relationship of birds to native plants in the Cornell Lab March 8, 2018 issue online if you wish to have plants in your garden to attract birds.
Creating Beautiful Low Maintenance Polycultures of Native Plants in North Texas: Principles and Examples

UTArlington Professor of Landscape Architecture David Hopman has done extensive research on the design and implementation of polycultures of native plants in metropolitan areas of North Texas. He will discuss his methodology, show examples of his successes, and explain how both designers and homeowners can adopt this successful strategy for taking advantage of the many benefits of plants indigenous to the North Texas area.

Bio:
Since accepting the position as a professor at the Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture at The University of Texas at Arlington in 2004, David Hopman, ASLA has energetically pursued a faculty role bridging practice and research. The courses he teaches reflect his research interests in plant materials and ecology, ecologically performative landscapes, landscape aesthetics, critical regionalism and computer visualization. Professor Hopman designed and implemented the first extensive green roof in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in 2008 above the Life Sciences Building at UT-Arlington. He was in charge of the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) certification for The Green at College Park on the UT-Arlington Campus in February of 2012; one of the first three projects worldwide to receive certification. This important certification system was developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, The National Arboretum, and The American Society of Landscape Architects. It is the landscape corollary, with or without buildings, to the USGBC LEED certification system. He is the author of an upcoming book titled: Creative Regionalism: Renewing the Aesthetics of Landscape in Environmental Design and Planning with a foreword by Dr. Frederick R. “Fritz” Steiner.

Landscape architecture practice experience as a registered landscape architect includes Kings Creek Landscaping, Huitt-Zollars, Inc., RTKL, Mesa Design Group, Inc., and a current independent practice. Recent projects include consulting on green roof design for the Forest Park Medical Center (with David C. Baldwin, Inc.) and the shops at Park Lane (with TBG Partners), The Plano Environmental Education Center landscape (with David Rietzsch and Associates), and the planting design for the Bush Presidential Library in Dallas (with Michael Van Valkenburgh and Associates).

Associate Professor, Landscape Architect
Landscape Architecture Program
The University of Texas at Arlington
College of Architecture Planning and Public Affairs (CAPPA)
Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture
April Program by David Hopman

Continued from Page 16

BRIT polyculture in January

David Hopman

BRIT polyculture in November.

CAPPA Polyculture_4-12-2018
Membership and Hospitality

Membership Report, April 2021
By Beth Barber

I hope you have been able to check out some of the Spring plant sales. Remember ours is Saturday, May 8th. Besides our sale, where do you buy plants? Do you request and look for natives at nurseries in your area? Remember companies respond to customer requests and the more stores that carry natives, the more folks will become aware of them and their benefits. This is just another way to help spread the word.

We have 210 members in our chapter. Please welcome new members Linda Lewis of Joshua and Sandy Smith of Arlington. Thank you to all who have recently renewed their membership. We really do have a great and growing chapter. Welcome back and thank you to all who have recently renewed their membership.

Don’t forget to download your membership card. A link is included in your membership ‘joining/renewal’ notice.

Hospitality by Corinna Benson

Welcome all.
In-person meetings are still Covid 19 pending.
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER  
April 1, 2021  
Online Zoom Meeting

**President Gordon Scruggs** called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. and welcomed the guests.

**Secretary Debbie Stilson:** The minutes from the March meeting were in the April newsletter that came out today. Since there are no comments, they are approved as published.

**Treasurer:** The financials for this month income $375, expense: $2,602, for a net expense of $2,227. The current bank balance is $14,370. We are looking for a treasurer for our chapter. Between 9 – 11 am on Saturday, there will be an online welcome onboard for treasurers. Please let Gordon know if you are interested and he will send you the link. According to NPSOT President Kim Conrow, it will be recorded if you want to watch at a later date.

**Milkweed:** Morgan Chivers said that the milkweed orders have been placed. They ought to be shipped out on April 20, and he will email those who ordered to know when and where to pick them up. If you did not get your order in, you still have a chance to grab them at the Spring Plant Sale.

**Spring Plant Sale:** Volunteers are still needed May 8 at River Legacy. Plants start arriving at 7 am. The sale will be from 9:30 – 3:00. Please email president@txnativeplants.org if you are interested in helping as a counter before or after the sale or at the sale itself. Volunteers have first choice of plants. Gordon will email members first before the general public about registering for a time.

**Membership:** We have 203 members, 4 new in the last month. Gordon welcomed them all and asked them to please introduce themselves if they come to the plant sale.

**Demonstration Gardens:** We have 9 in Tarrant County. Email info@txnativeplants.org to find one close to you.

**Newsletter:** The April newsletter came out today. Please submit photos and article to media@txnativeplants.org. They will be in the May newsletter, if they are in by April 15,

**NICE:** The plant of the season is prairie verbena. Learn more about it at our website txnativeplants.org.

**NLCP:** Registration for our chapter’s level 1 class on July 17 is available now at NPSOT.org. You must take the first class before any of the others. Sandy Finch Fountain and Theresa Thomas put this class together.

**Kim Conrow, the State President,** will be giving a talk to the City of Fort Worth on Saturday April 10 at 10:30 a.m. for Earth Day. It will be about how native plants help communities. A link will be sent tomorrow and be in the newsletter.

On April 24, there will be a repair the greenhouses fundraiser for the Discovery Gardens in Dallas. The milkweed delivery is scheduled for April 20.

**Ann Knudson** said although they do not normally work on holiday weekends, enough people had requested hours that there will be a *Molly Hollar workday* on Saturday from 9 – noon.

Meeting adjourned 6:49 P.M.

Submitted by Debbie Stilson

**Tonight’s Program** will be by UTA Professor David Hopman, ASLA, on *Creating Beautiful Low Maintenance Polycultures of Native Plants in North Texas: Principles and Examples*
Must read: Volunteer Opportunities in a Leadership Role

Your chapter of NPSOT needs you. We have openings for chairpersons for Treasurer, Field Trips, Donations and Grants, Education/Outreach, Publicity, and Events. We also need one or two more volunteers to help with the website and Facebook. You do not have to have any experience because the current chairpersons will train you. Contact your President, Gordon Scruggs, or reply to info@txnativeplants.org.

Consider this:

It only takes a few hours a month or Get together with a friend. Maybe the two of you would like to be Co-Chairs. Training will be provided and help is always available. Get your feet wet. It is very rewarding and will help keep our chapter one of the best in the state.
Farmer’s Calendar - May 2021 (excerpted from The Old Farmer's Almanac)

In the first days of May appears the red trillium (*Trillium erectum*). It’s a vigorous plant a foot or more high, with three broad leaves atop its stalk. In their axis is the slightly drooping red-brown flower—a plain thing distinguished by its scent: that of dead mice. Yet its reek seems to win it friends. If a well-loved child has many names, then this trillium must be a favorite. Books on wild plants give it at least 16 common or local names. Two-stinking Benjamin and wet-dog trillium come from the flower’s outrageous smell. Others allude to the plant’s supposed medicinal properties. It is thought to aid in childbirth, and Native Americans used it for snake-bite hence, birth-root, Indian balm, squaw-root.

Another name for this flower is wake-robin. Perhaps this flower’s blooming coincides with, and thus signals the spring arrival of the robin. But it doesn't around here. When our wake-robin comes out, the robins have been here for weeks. I think the robin who is fancifully being waked by *T. erectum* is not a bird but a boy, a man, in particular a simple country fellow, a ploughman, whose busy season on the land this flower’s bloom announces.

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May’s full Moon rises on Wednesday, May 26! This full Moon will be the closest full Moon of the year, making it the second of two supermoons—don't miss it! Plus, it will coincide with a total lunar eclipse in some areas. It reaches peak illumination at 7:14 A.M. (EDT) on Wednesday, May 26. It will be below the horizon at this time, so plan to venture outdoors the night before (Tuesday, May 25) or on Wednesday night to get the best view of the bright full Flower Moon! In some parts of the world, this month's full Moon coincides with a total lunar eclipse! When the full Moon appears this month, it will be ever-so-slightly closer to Earth than it was in April, meaning that May’s Flower Moon will be the biggest and brightest full Moon of the year—technically speaking. To the naked eye, May’s full Moon won't actually look any bigger or brighter than April's, since the Moon's distance from Earth differs by less than 100 miles between April and May. This is a miniscule distance in the grand scale of space, but we will still see a bright, beautiful supermoon nonetheless!

May’s Flower Moon name should be no surprise; flowers spring forth across North America in abundance this month!

- “Flower Moon” has been attributed to Algonquin peoples, as confirmed by Christina Ruddy of The Algonquin Way Cultural Centre in Pikwakanagan, Ontario.
- The Cree names Budding Moon and Leaf Budding Moon celebrate the awakening of local flora, which really begin to leaf out now in many areas. Similarly, Planting Moon (Dakota, Lakota) marks the time when seeds should be started for the farming season ahead. Also Egg Laying Moon and Frog Moon, as well as the Oglala term 'Moon of the Shedding Ponies'. All names indicate that warmer weather is on the way!
Maintaining Diverse Stands of Wildflowers

High quality pollinator meadows sometimes experience a decline in wildflower diversity or abundance as they age. This guide provides recommendations on how to bring declining meadows back into a high quality condition.

Collecting and Using Your Own Wildflower Seed

In this document we outline the basic steps of collecting native plant seed using readily available, non-specialized equipment, as well as tips for cleaning, storing, and sharing seed to expand pollinator habitat on farms and in our communities.

Roadside Best Management Practices that Benefit Pollinators

These best management practices provide concrete steps that can be taken by any roadside management agency to improve roadside vegetation for pollinators. The BMPs cover management of existing habitat, including ways to modify the use of mowing and herbicides to enhance roadsides, and methods to incorporate native plants and pollinator habitat into the design of new roadsides.

Roadside Habitat For Monarchs: Monarch Butterflies, Weeds, and Herbicides

Roadsides provide more than just milkweed. They can also provide diverse nectar sources to feed adult monarchs and other pollinators—but ensuring that roadsides can continue to provide the best habitat requires some thought and care. This guide highlights best management practices to reduce the impacts of herbicides on monarchs.
Monarch waystation by Kim Conrow

Attributes of a Monarch Waystation

**NPSOT mission:** Promoting conservation, research, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach, and example. (npsot.org)

**Site** – Site should have full sun at least six hours a day and good drainage. Invasive or exotic nonnative plants or aggressive native plants should be removed prior to planting. If applying for a BBMT grant the site must have public access.

**Nectar Plants** – Plant mix should be pesticide free native plants. Garden should include a variety of native nectar plants blooming at least three seasons a year with special emphasis on fall blooming plants.

**Milkweed** – Garden should include a fair ratio (1:3 - 1:6) of native, pesticide free, milkweed plants to nectar plants indigenous to the local area. Milkweeds should have some protection from predators by pairing with companion plantings. Most milkweed species thrive on full sun, and Monarchs prefer to lay their eggs in the sun. Planting milkweeds among other plants makes it tougher for predatory wasps to find and access all the caterpillars. This type of planting more closely mimics the natural environment.

**Water** – A hand watering schedule should be in place or irrigation with timers set to local restrictions. The garden should be watered regularly to establish the plants. After one to two years, the watering schedule can be considerably less. Care should be taken not to over water.

**Maintenance** – There should be a consistent work force scheduled for maintenance. Plant specific care should be noted and considered. Garden should be free of weeds. Lightly spreading a soft mulch to retain moisture and resist weed growth is acceptable but keep in mind ground nesting bees prefer to see open soil when choosing their nest sites and many species of Milkweeds resent wet material pressed up against their stems.

**Signage** – Designating the area as a Monarch Waystation or Monarch demonstration garden present is important. Monarch life cycle or migration are good concepts for interpretative signage.

**Educational Programs/ Events** – Educational programs, events or classes held in the garden enhance public understanding of the plight of the Monarch and of ways to help the species.

~~~~~~~~


Booklet to help in choosing milkweed species by ecoregion: [https://www.wildflower.org/plants/TPWD-Identification-Milkweeds-Texas.pdf](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/TPWD-Identification-Milkweeds-Texas.pdf)

Contact your local NPSOT Chapter and ask about nectar plants for your region and their NICE Native Plant Partner Nurseries. Many nurseries are beginning to carry native milkweed plants.

Renew your membership or join our Society: [https://npsot.org/wp/join-renew/](https://npsot.org/wp/join-renew/)

“Monarch Waystations can transform lifeless areas into places where birds, butterflies, and bees will find food and shelter, and humans will find a welcoming place of beauty, relaxation, and joy.” Kim Conrow

2021
Demo Gardens by Kim Conrow

NCC Demo Gardens & Internet Resources March 2021

**North Central Chapter** - garden with the masters and learn so much about native plants. Check with the chapter on how to volunteer in our demonstration gardens.

Website: [https://www.txnativeplants.org](https://www.txnativeplants.org)
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/1479128372319091/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1479128372319091/)

List of native plants for local gardens. There are also links to other organizations plant lists: [https://www.txnativeplants.org/portfolio/what-to-plant/](https://www.txnativeplants.org/portfolio/what-to-plant/)

Nine NCC Demo Gardens March 2021 - addresses:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Demonstration Garden</th>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest Subcourthouse Garden</td>
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<td>Native Plant Garden at the Southwest Library</td>
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<td>Molly Hollar Wildscape</td>
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<td>Butterfly Garden at Fielder House</td>
<td>1616 W Abram St, Arlington</td>
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<td>2021 W Abram St, Arlington</td>
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<td>White Settlement Waystation</td>
<td>8515 White Settlement Rd, White Settlement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pollinator Garden at River Legacy Park</td>
<td>703 NW Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington</td>
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<td>Butterfly Garden at Knapp Heritage Park</td>
<td>201 W Front St, Arlington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pollinator Garden at Randal Mill Park</td>
<td>1901 W Randol Mill Rd, Arlington</td>
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</table>
Prairie verbena

“A very showy display of our Plant of the Season”.
Photo taken by Karen Harden April 2021
Location: Karen’s pocket prairie, Parker County

Trees and Plants

How a Garden Can Help You Feel Better
https://www.treehugger.com/garden-can-help-you-feel-better-5114439

Shinrin yoku: The Japanese Art of Forest Bathing
https://www.treehugger.com/shinrin-yoku-forest-bathing-books-4861941

Professor Spends 2 Years Sitting with an Ancient Oak
https://www.treehugger.com/professor-years-sitting-ancient-oak-tree-5113754

Proximity and Trees
https://www.brainpickings.org/2021/03/10/proximity/
I find this genus of plants interesting for several reasons. One it is my nemesis. When Troy and I are out walking in a field or meadow and I spot one, I can never remember its name. Fortunately, Troy remembers. Second, the members of this genus bloom at widely different times from May to November. Third, although most prefer deep sandy soils, some like calcareous or limestone ones. Fourth, most prefer open areas, such as prairies or hillsides, but some grow best in forested areas. Fifth, some prefer disturbed areas and some do not. Sixth, leaves may be alternate or opposite, depending on where you look on the stem and the age of the plant. Sixth, the ray flowers may be present or absent. The flowers of all are quite small, but the overall plants are tall. Flowers may be light to dark pink or varying shades of pale to dark violet. Identification can be a challenge, but once you learn what to look for, you will be happy to have invested the time to learn. All of the species found in our area are pretty and several would make a good addition to your garden. They are easily grown from seeds scattered in the fall. Collection of seeds from the wild is your best option because there are few sources listed online.

Palafoxia are found from the sandy beaches of the Gulf to the Panhandle to East Texas to West Texas. They are quite hardy. There are 12 species in this genus native to the SW U.S. and Mexico. 5 species are found in NC Texas: small palafoxia (Palafoxia callosa), showy palafoxia (Palafoxia hoookeriana), Reverchon’s palafoxia (Palafoxia reverchonii), rose palafoxia (Palafoxia rosea), and rayed or sand palafoxia (Palafoxia shacevata).

Small palafoxia (Palafoxia callosa) is native to East Texas west to the Rolling Plains and Edwards Plateau. It blooms August to November. In the wild it is found in calcareous soils and disturbed habitats. The ‘small’ refers to the size of the blooms, not the height of the plant because it can reach almost 2 feet. This one is listed in most of the field guides.

Showy or Hooker’s palafoxia (Palafoxia hoookeriana) is endemic to Texas and grows on the eastern margin of NC Texas, mainly SE to SC parts. It blooms July to September or October. This one is probably the most rare in our area. Sally Wasowski recommends this species for the garden because it can be grown in sand, loam, caliche, or limestone, if it is well-drained. The flowers are probably the largest of all the palafoxia at 1½ inches. There are 8-12 dark rose-colored flowers on the head forming a bouquet in itself. Geyata Ajilvsgi considers it one of the state’s most beautiful wildflowers. Even though the flowers are small, they attract butterflies as the plants rise up above many others at 2-4 feet tall. Plants will bloom a relatively long time if flower heads are removed before setting seeds. The last flowers of the season should not be trimmed if you want showy palafoxia to self sow its seeds for next season.

Reverchon’s palafoxia (Palafoxia reverchonii) is endemic to Texas and is found on the extreme eastern margin of NC Texas. It blooms September to October. Closely related to Palafoxia hoookeriana. The blooms are pale to dark violet. The stems are 5-35 inches tall.

Rose palafoxia (Palafoxia rosea) has 2 varieties: macrolepsis which is found in sandy soils in open areas on the western edge of NC Texas and rosea which is found mainly SE and East Texas. Both prefer disturbed habitats and bloom June to November. This species is probably the one we most encounter in our area. Because it prefers deep, dry, sandy soil, it is a good companion to sand verbena, huisache daisy, western peppergrass, portulaca and amaranth in a garden. It is best used for massed plantings and for background groupings. Producing abundant nectar and pollen, these plants are magnets for butterflies and other small insects, according to Geyata Ajilvsgi. It is shorter than some at 4-20 inches tall.

Palafoxia Photos on Page 27
Rayed or sand palafoxia (*Palfoxia shacelata*) may be difficult to distinguish from showy pilafoxia. Location and bloom time may be a deciding factor for identification. It grows in sandy soils, in grasslands mainly in the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle east to the Rolling Plains. It blooms from May to November. Often, one or more of the ray flowers will be missing, giving it an ‘abnormal’ or ‘lop-sided’ appearance. It does well in arid-type gardens. It is 5-35 inches tall.

References:

Books:
- Ajilvsgi, Geyata, *Wildflowers of Texas*, Shearer Pub., Fredericksburg, TX, 2003
- Curry, Mary, *North Central Texas Wildflowers*, Mary Curry Pub., Decatur, TX, 2015
- Eason, Michael, *Wildflowers of Texas*, Timber Press, Portland, OR, 2018
Native Plants in My Garden by Jeanette Hyden

Natives in my yard so far. I have planted more blackfoot daisy* (my personal favorite native wildflower). As the seasons mature my yard takes on color themes. During the early spring pinks predominate. Native Texas redbud trees fill the air and a non-native oxalis blooms in a border. I must have shampinks for St. Patrick’s Day. Louisiana phlox creates a carpet of color and scent inviting the first butterflies seeking nectar. The redbuds have given up their pink and filled the air with their heart shaped leaves. The leaves, I see, have circular punches in places where the cutter bees have visited.

I am trying a red, white, and blue themed area for the hot summer months, including red Salvia greggii, blackfoot daisy, and a non-native larkspur. My Salvia greggii is blooming now and I have included a photograph for the red, white, and blue part of the article. Even though the bluebonnets are not in the bed with the blackfoot daisy and Salvia, including the bluebonnets would make that grouping all native. I need to find more bluebonnets at the nursery and add those to the RWB themed garden since they all are blooming now. Because my front yard has a decent slope and southern exposure I often experiment with new plants or replacements. Introducing natives to my yard without the benefit of a formal curated plan can get dicey.

Homeowners fall into various categories, for example; urban - must follow municipal codes; suburban - often regulated by HOA; and country- large acreage with limited access to supplemental water for new planting. My yard must follow HOA rules. This year, after the long freeze and the toll it has taken on the plants, I appreciated the abundant coverage of Oxalis dillenii, slender yellow woodsorrel, in the grassy portions of the yard. So far I have been able to add native plants without any complaints from the HOA*. I hope to add more with each successful new native addition.

*Someone asked about growing blackfoot daisy so this is my advice. I have success keeping my plant alive year-to-year. I have created a reflective heat micro-environment. I have the perfect spot for the blackfoot daisy. It looks fragile but it takes full sun with reflective heat from stones. It does not receive water from the sprinkler system. It blooms from March through November. When we have 90 degree weather, and the sun is out, the flower’s perfume wafts with a heavenly honey scent. The flowers grow out and over the sidewalk. Don’t ask me how it survives, it just does.

This spring I planted 3 along the front border of the red, white, and blue bed. The photograph here is in an older bed with a reflective heat micro-environment. A 12” wide by 7” tall rock in front, a brick wall behind and landscape rocks underneath. This micro-environment protected it from the freeze this winter. In March I cut the sprawling dead ends back 1-2 feet on the south side that spreads over the sidewalk.

Naturalist’s Big Bend book by Wauer has them growing in the foothills of the Chisos Mountains along with white milkwort, (Polygamy alba), and Plains fleabane, (Erigeron modestus). The Campbell and Loughmiller, Texas Wildflower book says it grows, ”Trans Pecos: abundant from Davis Mountains to Big Bend.” The Wasowski’s, Native Texas Plants book page 197 says the soil should be,”well drained, sand, caliche, or limestone.”

**Note: Senate Bill 198 from 2013 states that an HOA cannot keep you from planting natives in your yard instead of yard grass in order to conserve water, especially native grasses, and endangered or protected species. If you plan on converting your entire front yard to natives, it is best to submit a plan in advance to the HOA. Maintain your yard so it looks kept. Perhaps create a border of rocks, bricks, or landscape timbers.

Photographs next Page
Native Plants in My Garden  by Jeanette Hyden

1 Redbud tree, *Cercis canadensis* L. var. *texensis*, Tarrant County, March 1, 2021

3 Redbud tree, leaves and seed pods. Tarrant County, April 18, 2021

4 Pink oxalis (non-native) purchased in Ireland creates a border. *Oxalis dillenii*, slender yellow woodsorrel April 6, 2021

4a *Oxalis dillenii*, slender yellow woodsorrel. Tarrant County, April 6, 2021

5 *Salvia greggii*, (5 plants on the left side of the bed) Tarrant County, April 15, 2021

6 Texas bluebonnets, *Lupinus texensis*, Tarrant County, April 15, 2021

7 Blackfoot daisy, *Melampodium leucanthum* this is an older photo from previous years

8 Blackfoot daisy, *Melampodium leucanthum*, older photo from previous years

9 Blackfoot daisy, *Melampodium leucanthum*, Tarrant County, April 15, 2021

10 *Salvia lyrate*, Lyreleaf Sage, lyre-leaf sage, wild sage, cancerweed, Tarrant County, April
Like many others in the last year, I have spent more time taking stock of unrecognized gifts close to home. My daily walks began to focus on my more immediate surroundings, including an undeveloped limestone hillside across the street from me. While I have always been grateful for the privacy it provided, only recently have I come to see the individual native plants that make up my wild Fort Worth landscape.

My latest find resembled a bluebonnet to me. When iNaturalist identified it as Indian Breadroot I knew I had to investigate the history behind the name. It is a species of *Pediomelum* or *Psoralea*, a perennial forb native to North America which has tuberous roots high in protein, carbohydrates and vitamin C. Once done blooming, the tops dry up and blow away like mini tumbleweeds, spreading their seed and making the roots hard to find. They were also known as Prairie Turnip, Scurf Pea, Indian Turnip, Prairie Potato, Subterranean Indian breadroot, little breadroot or *Timsila* (Lakota name for Prairie Turnip). The foliage is suspected of being poisonous and is unpalatable to domestic sheep and cattle.

There are 21 species of Pediomelum on the Great Plains ranging from Canada to Mexico. The two endemic Texas varieties (*Pediomelum latestipulatum var latestipulatum* and *Pediomelum latestipulatum var appressum*) are separated based on the pubescence (hair) being erect or lying flat. My plant appears to be Texas Plains Indian Breadroot (*Pediomelum latestipulatum var latestipulatum*), has a large edible turnip shaped taproot and is native but not endemic to Texas. It served as a staple diet for the Plains Indians for centuries, with wild harvesting occurring during the flowering season. They dried and braided their long taproots into bundles that could be stored and traded. Their location even affected the selection of hunting grounds. *Timsila* collection, peeling and frying was observed by Lewis and Clark in 1805 and remains a current seasonal tradition in some Indian cultures. Harvesters report that wild harvesting increases the population of plant roots available. This was confirmed when an ethnobotany and community ecology study demonstrated the effect wild harvest techniques had on plant populations. While the mature plant is killed by harvesting the root, soil disturbance favors increased seedling recruitment. This in turn “…led to a nearly three-fold increase in the sustainable yield of roots harvested from the general population. This suggests that as traditional harvesters dug millions of roots from across the prairie, they were creating conditions that favored the category of plants they were harvesting.”

I hope to collect seed from my neighborhood plants and attempt to grow some next spring. Seeds can be found online. Perhaps reading this will encourage you to grow something new and let us know how it turned out. If you are interested in growing Prairie Turnips, the article cited by April Stahnke has great information about obtaining or collecting seed and growing. I will be happy to forward a copy to anyone who is interested.


Prairie Turnip *Pediomelum Esculentum* historical and modern use, propagation and management of a new crop; Stahnke, April, et al; *Native Plants Journal*; Spring 2008; pg 47-58


**Photographs next Page**
Paradise Lost

by Troy & Martha Mullens

Paradise Lost and the Forever Home Blues

Forever home…you hear that expression a lot. There is even a television show that bears that name. My thought was that a forever home would be that home one builds and then lives in “forever”. For me, I expected my “forever” to last essentially the rest of my life which I anticipated would be of shorter duration than Kristi’s, my wife, since she is 15 years my junior. I set about working on projects certain I had “forever” to get them completed. However, forever occurred much earlier for my wife; no, not because of an untimely demise, but rather because she applied for and was awarded her dream job in New Braunfels. So long forever home…time to build you again.

There is, however, one aspect of the forever home project that I regret not being able to finish: the extensive re-nativization of our two little acres of paradise in Dalworthington Gardens. I began the process haphazardly and a bit more slowly than I should have, but still managed to get quite a bit done.

The project began by creating a small area in the rear of the house – neglecting the larger project in the front yard (much to the chagrin of my neighbors I’m sure who had nicely manicured lawns). The smaller project involved placing more than 220’ of stone edging using the Live Oak on the North and the native Pecan tree on the South as anchoring points. At this point I wasn’t as committed to native plants as I was by the end of the project, but still the preponderance of plants in this bed are natives: Brazos Penstemon, Bluebonnets, Gayfeather, Flame Acanthus, Rock Rose, Autumn Sage and Texas Sedge dominate with a smattering of White Avens, Golden Groundsel, Lyre Leaf Sage and Mexican Hat. The pride of this area, however, are two wild Texas Orchids found on a plant dig with John Snowden. These two have not bloomed yet, but I’m anxiously waiting for them to do so. One way or another, however, they are going to be accompanying me to New Braunfels.

Once I “completed” the rear landscape bed (one never actually finishes a plant landscape), I moved to the front. I started the raised bed area with Celosia Dragons’ Breath (I know, not a native), but its firey red plumes have brough passersby to my front door to ask what type of flower they are. That question is still asked, but now I can reply

“They are Celosia Dragons’ Breath, one of only three non-natives among more than 50 species in the front yard alone.” I then explain the benefits of native plants for the birds, bees a and butterflies, as well as the savings in my water bill. The final point I make concerns the absence of chemicals being carried in run off water to our local Pappy Elkins Pond, a central feature of our local park.

The raised beds accommodate Red Yucca (some grown from seed I’m proud to say), Giant Coneflower, Pokeweed, Englemann’s Daisy, Evening Primrose, Cowboy Sunset Bluestem, a volunteer Antelope Horn Milkweed Thistle and an almost-perfectly place Pokeweed…two feet to the left would have been perfect (that is, would have been centered and balanced based on landscaping guidelines), but nature preferred it be slightly off-balance. My favorite aphorism is, “A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival technique except growing in rows.” Trust me…the Pokweed has survived for its second year and the Mockingbirds say “Thanks!” when the dark purple droops are ready to eat.

While the Pokweed is the most obvious resident of this landscape area, the Texas Poinsettia (Euphorbia) is the star. A Volunteer that showed up in 2020, the enormous number of seeds it produced has resulted in a virtual forest of small sprouts and some are going with me to New Braunfels. Flanked by my own crop of seed-planted Bluebonnets and Winecups, the Texas Poinsettia is going to be quite dramatic by Summer.

Continued on Page 33
The real project, however, was the front yard. More than 1,500 cardboard boxes provided a thick sheathing that cut off the life-giving sunlight to the crop of true weeds and Bermuda grass that were taking over the roughly 30’ x 80’ main landscape area. A combination of hand-digging the Bermuda combined with multiple layers of cardboard boxes from the local liquor store (I can only imagine that the neighbors thought I had a serious drinking problem!) eventually resulted in a mulch-covered blank canvass for me to paint my native plants masterpiece.

The front yard is divided into three main zones for plants, two zones for Arizona cobblestone dry river beds and a central decomposed granite-gravel walkway. The two river beds contain 10,600 pounds of river rock which I personally installed with a shovel and wheelbarrow. The river beds are traversed with bridges connected to flagstone pathways: one bridge is a solid ash slab six feet long and the other a flagstone with glistening mica. The pathways are designed to invite neighbors to wander through and check out the native plants, most of which are identified by both common name and scientific name. The goal is education and edification – I hope that continues after we have moved.

Small native trees (Prairie Flameleaf Sumac, Possumhaw Holly, Yaupon Holly and Black Willow) accompany the existing native Pecan tree to anchor the three landscape zones. Eastern Gamagrass, transplanted from overgrowth in the raised beds, forms a border along the bar ditch in an effort to stem the approach of Bermudagrass and to solidify the side of the ditch and protect against further erosion.

Four Nerve Daisies dance colorfully next to Blanket Flowers and line the flagstone pathway that splits the large bed into three zones featuring a variety of Salvias, Gailardias, Bonesets, Mexican Feathergrass and Mexican Mint Marigolds.

The native prairie grass restoration project on the back of the two acres is already well underway with more than 50 transplants including Silvertip Bluestem, Purpletop grass, Switchgrass, Hooded Windmill grass, Paspalum and Splitbeard Bluestem joining forces with the existing Prairie Verbena, Scribner’s Grass and Frogfruit. Maximillian Sunflowers, Hairy Sunflowers, Milkweed Thistle and Antelope Horn Milkweed Thistle add color and structure and have already begun spreading to expand the buffet offerings for bees, birds and butterflies.

The final project before we move is the establishment of a Buffalograss area for visual relief from the intense color and form of the more than 75 native plants in the front landscape areas. While it will be somewhat disconcerting to plant the final seed, I plan to screen the buyer pool carefully for someone who will appreciate the gift Texas native plants will give them throughout the year and the effort that went into helping create this little Texas paradise. I hope it will be the forever home of the native plants, even if one native Texan (my wife) returns to the Hill Country and one native Floridian starts over again. Zone 8…here we come!

Eastern Gamagrass and Prairie Parsley
Pink Evening Primrose surrounding Bluebonnets with Pokeweed in the background
A view across the Ash bridge with Yarrow, Texas Sedge, and Coralberry.
by Troy & Martha Mullens

Paradise Lost  by Eric Strickland

Bluebonnets, Cowboy Sunset Bluestem and Lindheimer Muhly

Eastern Gamagrass, Mexican Hat, Western Ironweed, Maximilian Sunflower, Giant Coneflower and Pink Evening Primrose

Wine cups, Horseherb and Texas Sedge

North river bed

Portion of prairie grass restoration project

Cardboard sheathing

Cardboard sheathing

Maximilian Sunflower

Texas Orchid

Texas Poinsettia
White Settlement Monarch Waystation

We have a new demonstration garden manager, Tom Salmi. He is now managing the White Settlement Monarch Waystation. I want to thank him for stepping up to be a leader in our Chapter. If you would like to volunteer to work with Tom or at another demonstration garden, please let us know at info@txnativeplants.org. A list of the demonstration garden locations is available at www.txnativeplants.org.

Tom's biography:

Tom has resided in Tarrant County for over 25 years. He is a Texas Master Naturalist and enjoys being outside with people that are committed to nature in Texas. Tom began volunteering with the Hill County Rest Area Monarch Waystations Project in March of 2017. He found it to be a fantastic experience, in both efforts and rewards. His association with Trinity Forks NPSOT increased his depth of appreciation for native plants. Planting milkweeds at the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Area is a happy memory of his because everyone was very interested in hands on, in the dirt, learning.

The Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) classes were challenging and fun for him as he completed Levels 1, 2, and 3. He recently attended the NPSOT Native Landscapes for Birds, Austin. Tom participated in National Wildlife Association Monarch Conservation and Citizen Science workshops in Dallas and Fort Worth in 2019.

He often volunteers for the City of Euless, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Texas Association for Environmental Education. His favorite hobbies include fishing and amateur radio.

Tom looks forward to this exciting opportunity to volunteer at the Monarch Waystation White Settlement. He hopes to see you there soon.
You know the feeling. Something inside of you tells you that it is time to get outside to enjoy North Texas April wildflowers. I’m very grateful the experts predicted a beautiful wild flower display was still coming after our freezing weather. They were on the mark. Susan and I enjoyed a sunny Sunday afternoon drive on the Texas Bluebonnet Trail near the City of Ennis. Hundreds of smiling Texans were out to play in the 68 degree April weather. The light northwest breeze didn't stop anyone from getting real close to nature. Everyone seemed to be snapping pictures of family and friends surrounded by bluebonnets. Along the roadside cars were parked here and there. Visitors, young and old, wandered about in awe of the blueness. Yet not one angry blast of a vehicle horn attempted to unravel the happy moment.

After a pit stop at the new Buc-ees in Ennis, with a D.P. icee in hand, we began the 60 mile drive home to Euless. We plan to return to the Bluebonnet Trail in Ennis in April 2022. Why don't you consider taking the self guided drive. It’s a Texas wildflower experience!
Tom Salmi

Thank you for introducing me to the membership. I am a retired person that enjoys being outside with people committed to nature in Texas.

During March of 2017 I started volunteering with the Hill County Rest Area Monarch WayStations Project. It is a fantastic experience to be involved with, in both efforts and rewards.

My association with Trinity Forks NPSOT increased my depth of appreciation for native plants and pollinators. Planting milkweeds at the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Area is an enjoyable memory. Everyone was very interested in participating in the event.

NLCP classes were challenging and fun for me. I completed NLCP levels 1, 2, 3, and recently attended NPSOT Native Landscapes for Birds, Austin.

In 2019, I participated in the National Wildlife Association Monarch Conservation and Citizen Science workshops in Dallas and Fort Worth.

Thanks again. I look forward to this exciting opportunity to volunteer at the Monarch Station in White Settlement. I hope to see you there sometime soon.
# Recommended Plant List
## For North Central Texas

### Key:
- **E** = Evergreen
- **P** = Tolerates poor drainage
- **D** = Drought resistant in full sun
- **S** = Shade tolerant
- **F** = Very showy in flower or fruit
- **B** = Attracts birds or butterflies
- ***** = Susceptible to Oak wilt

### Shrub

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<td>Yucca pallida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Yucca</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Hesperaloe parviflora</td>
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<td>P</td>
<td>Rhus glabra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas Barberry</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Mahonia swaseyi</td>
<td>Texas Mock Orange</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Philadelphus texensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Sage/Cenizo</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Leucophyllum frutescens</td>
<td>Turk’s Cap</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Malvaviscus arboreum drummondii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Sweetspire</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Itea virginica</td>
<td>Wax Myrtle</td>
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<td>Morella cerifera</td>
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<tr>
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### Grasses

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<td>Faidalia paradoxa</td>
<td>Autumn Sage</td>
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<td>Cassia wislizenii</td>
<td>Coralbean</td>
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<td>Symphoricarpus orbiculatus</td>
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<td>Myrica pusilla</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Anisacanthus quadrifidus wrightii</td>
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<td>Indigobush</td>
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<td>Yucca pallida</td>
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<td>Texas Mock Orange</td>
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<td>Virginia Sweetspire</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Itea virginica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wax Myrtle</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Morella cerifera</td>
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### Small Trees

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<td>Cotinus obovatus</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Quercus sinuata brevibola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bigelow Oak</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Quercus sinuata brevibola</td>
<td>Carolina Buckthorn</td>
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<td>Rhamnus caroliniana</td>
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<td>Cherry Laurel</td>
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<td>Prunus caroliniana</td>
<td>Desert Willow</td>
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<td>Chlipisia linears</td>
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<td>Eastern Red Cedar</td>
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<td>Juniperus virginiana</td>
<td>Eve’s Necklace</td>
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<td>Styrpholobium affine</td>
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<td>Goldenball Leadtree</td>
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<td>Leucaena retusa</td>
<td>Lacy Oak</td>
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<td>Mexican Buckeye</td>
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<td>Ugrandia speciosa</td>
<td>Mexican Plum</td>
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<td>Prunus mexicana</td>
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<td>Possumhaw</td>
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<td>Ilex decidua</td>
<td>Prairie Flame Sumac</td>
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<td>Rhus lanceolata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roughleaf Dogwood</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Cornus drummondii</td>
<td>Rusty Blackhawk</td>
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<td>Viburnum rufidulum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas Persimmon</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Diospyros texana</td>
<td>Texas Redbud</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Cercis canadensis texensis</td>
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<td>Wright acacia</td>
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<td>Acacia Wrightii</td>
<td>Yaupon Holly</td>
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<td>Ilex vomitoria</td>
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### Shade Trees

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<tr>
<td>American Elm</td>
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<td>Ulmus americana</td>
<td>Bald Cypress</td>
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<td>Taxodium distichum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bigtooth Maple</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Acer grandidentatum</td>
<td>Bur Oak</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Quercus macrocarpa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caddo Maple</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Acer barbatum</td>
<td>Cedar Elm</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Ulmus crassifoila</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinquapin Oak</td>
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<td>Ulmus muehligeri</td>
<td>Live Oak</td>
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<td>Mesquite</td>
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<td>Caryilnoinensis</td>
<td>Post Oak</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Quercus stellata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pecan</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Prosopis glandulosa</td>
<td>Shumard Red Oak</td>
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<td>Quercus shumardii</td>
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<tr>
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<td>E</td>
<td>Magnolia grandiflora</td>
<td>Texas Ash</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Fraxinus albicans</td>
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<td>Texas Red Oak</td>
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<td>Quercus texana</td>
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* Continued on Page 39

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Visit us on the web at www.txnativeplants.org for more information about the NC Chapter, or www.npsot.org for a local chapter in your area.

The purpose and mission of NPSOT is to promote research, conservation and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example.

May 2021 NPSOT News   North Central Chapter Page 38
### Recommended Plant List For North Central Texas

**Key:**  
- **E** = Evergreen  
- **P** = Tolerates poor drainage  
- **S** = Shade tolerant  
- **F** = Very showy in flower or fruit  
- **D** = Drought resistant in full sun  
- *** =** Susceptible to Oak wilt  
- **B** = Attracts birds or butterflies  
- **FF** = Very showy in fall foliage

#### Garden/Meadow Flowers

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<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<td>Baraba’s Buttons</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Marshallia caespitosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bergamot/Beebalm</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Monarda fistulosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Red Sage</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Salvia pensentemonides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bitterweed</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Helianthus Amarum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Eyed Susan</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Rudbeckia hirta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Eyed Grass</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Sisyrinchium sp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Flax</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Linum lewisii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Mist Flower</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Conoclinium coelestinum</td>
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<td>Bluebonnet</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Lupinus texensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardinal Flower</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Lobelia cardinalis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cowpen Daisy</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Verbesina enceloides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Datura</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Datura wrightii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diomond Petal Primrose</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Denothera rhombipetala</td>
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<td>Engelman Daisy</td>
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<td>Engelmannia perstenia</td>
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<td>Salvia engelmannii</td>
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<td>Eryngy</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Eryngium leavenworthii</td>
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<td>Fall Obedient Plant</td>
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<td>Fragrant Ageratina</td>
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<td>Fragrant Phlox</td>
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<td>Philox pilosa</td>
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<td>Greenthread</td>
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<td>Thelesperma filifolium</td>
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<td>Gulf Coast Penstemon</td>
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<td>Halberd Leaf Hibiscus</td>
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<td>Hibiscus laevis</td>
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<td>Horesemint</td>
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<td>Gaillardia pulchella</td>
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<td>Indian Paintbrush</td>
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<td>Castilleja indivisa</td>
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<td>Partridge Pea</td>
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<td>Prairie Onion</td>
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<td>Allium stipitatum</td>
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<td>Prairie Verbena</td>
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<td>Ruellia</td>
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<td>Scarlet Sage</td>
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<td>Shrubby Skullcap</td>
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<td>Skeleton Leaf Goldeneye</td>
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<td>Viguiera stenoloba</td>
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<td>Snow-on-the-prairie</td>
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<td>Euphorbia bicolor</td>
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<td>Spiderwort</td>
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<td>Tradescantia sp</td>
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<td>Spring Rain Lily</td>
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<td>Cooperia pedunculata</td>
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<td>Standing Cypress</td>
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<td>Two-leaved Senna</td>
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<td>Senna roemeriana</td>
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<td>White Milkwort</td>
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<td>Polygala alba</td>
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<td>Wild Foxglove</td>
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#### Vines

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<td>Climbing Prairie Rose</td>
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<td>Coral Honeysuckle</td>
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<td>Crossvine</td>
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<td>Bignonia capreolata</td>
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<td>Passion Flower</td>
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<td>Passiflora incarnata</td>
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<td>Virginia Creeper</td>
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<td>Melampodium leucanthum</td>
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<td>Butterfly Weed</td>
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<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
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<td>Coreopsis</td>
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<td>Four-nerve Daisy</td>
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<td>Tetraneuris scaposa</td>
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<td>Gayfeather</td>
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<td>Liatris punctata mucronata</td>
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<td>Gregg’s mistflower</td>
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<td>Mealy Blue Sage</td>
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<td>Salvia farinacea</td>
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<td>Purple Coneflower</td>
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<td>Echinacea spp.</td>
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<td>Rockrose</td>
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<td>Texas Lantana</td>
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<td>Lantana urticoides</td>
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<td>Wild red columbine</td>
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<td>Aquilegia canadensis</td>
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<td>Callirhoe involucrata</td>
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<td>Yellow Columbine</td>
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<td>Aquilegia spp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zexmenia</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Wedelia acapulcensis hispida</td>
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#### North Central Texas Top Ten Invasives

- Japanese honeysuckle  
- Glossy privet  
- Chinese Privet  
- Giant reed  
- Chinese wisteria  
- Vitex chastetree  
- Nandina  
- Chinaberry tree  
- Chinese tallow tree  
- Johnson grass

For information about our chapter & participating nurseries visit [www.txnativeplants.org/plants](http://www.txnativeplants.org/plants) or scan the QR code.
List of the 2021 Programs
Reported by Morgan Chivers

Thursday, February 4, 2021 Alison Ravenscraft
Feeding Your Friendly Backyard Herbivore:
CoEvolution of Native Plants and Native Insects

Thursday, March 4, 2021 Mark Morgenstern
Propagation Techniques for Native Plants

Thursday, April 1, 2021 David Hopman
Creating Beautiful Low Maintenance Polycultures of
Native Plants in North Texas: Principles and Examples

Thursday, May 6, 2021 Bill Neiman & friends
Become Native to Your Place with Native American Seed

Thursday, June 3, 2021 Luke Frischkopf
Anole habitat & Texas native plants

Stemless Evening Primrose

©2021 Troy Mullens
Prairie Verbena, Low-growing perennial spring color

Description: *Glandularia bipinnatifida*, known as Prairie Verbena in Texas, has a number of other common names including Dakota Mock Vervain and the poetic Spanish Moradilla, meaning “Little Purple One.” It is found widely in Texas and ranges to Central America. It prefers grassy, prairie habitats in nature. Prairie Verbena is in the large verbena family, which also contains Texas native favorites Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) and Texas Lantana (*Lantana urticoides*). Prairie Verbena is a short-lived, short-statured deciduous perennial growing to one foot tall and one and a half feet wide with widely dissected medium green leaves.

Flowers and Seeds: Prairie Verbena has a long flowering season, from March through October, with the heaviest blooms in the spring. Its flowers, usually in the purple hues, are borne in clusters with each flower having five petals. It readily re-seeds.

Planting sites: Prairie Verbena thrives in partial shade to full sun in a range of soil pH and soil types. It prefers dry to somewhat moist sites and must be well drained.

Watering Instructions: Water Prairie Verbena well when planting it or its seed. It is drought tolerant except in severe dry spells.

Comments: Prairie Verbena is a favorite plant seen along Texas roadways and in fields during its blooming season. It is well suited for home gardens, especially those not regularly irrigated. It attracts butterflies and bees, with its flowers providing a nectar source. It is deer resistant. Prairie Verbena is easy to grow and can be propagated by cuttings or by seed. Consider planting Prairie Verbena instead of non-native Periwinkle, Petunia or Begonia. Companion species include Zexmenia (*Wedelia texana*), Mealy Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*), milkweeds like Antelope Horn (*Asclepias asperula*), Gayfeather (*Liatris mucronata*) and Sundrops (*Calylophus berlandieri*).

Look for the NICE Plant of the Season signs and information sheets on your next visit to a participating North Texas nursery. Thank you for using native plants in your landscapes.
RESERVED

RESERVED: River Legacy Park for the May 8, 2021 Plant Sale

Spring 2021 Plant Sale
By Sandy Fountain

NOTE TO GROWERS: SELL A LOT, BUT BUY TWICE AS MANY

News flash

Viva la France

**June program:**
**Thursday, June 3, 2021**
**Luke Frischkopf**
"Anole habitat"

Visit us on the Web at
www.txnativeplants.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.

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. Note new prices effective April 1, 2019. 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, Fredericksburg, TX 78624

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<tr>
<td>___ Senior (65+)</td>
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<td>___ Limited Income</td>
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<td>___ Additional Chapter</td>
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Name: ________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: _______________________________________________
County: _______________________________________________________
Phone: _______________________________________________________
Chapter Affiliation: _____North Central Chapter____
E-mail: _______________________________________________________

Go to https://npsot.org/wp/join-renew/ for an on-line sign-up form or for additional information. A printable form is also available there.

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.

Troy Mullens, Editor
media@txnativeplants.org