July
Wildflower issue

Purple Coneflower — Echinacea sp.

No Meeting
In July

Chapter of the Year (2016/17)
Chapter Newsletter of the Year (2019/20)

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www.txnativeplants.org

Native Plant Society of Texas,
North Central Chapter
Newsletter
Vol 33, Number 7
July 2021

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NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

Native Plant Society of Texas,
North Central Chapter
Newsletter
Vol 33, Number 7
July 2021
Chapter Leaders

President — Gordon Scruggs
  president@txnativeplants.org
Past President — Karen Harden
Vice President & Programs —
  Morgan Chivers
Recording Secretary — Debbie Stilson
Treasurer — Position open
Hospitality Chair — Corinna Benson,
  Tracie Middleton
Membership Chair — Beth Barber
Events Chair — Position open
NICE! Coordinator — Avon Burton
Plant Sales Coordinators - Gordon Scruggs
  & Sandy Fountain & Josephine Keeney
Education/Outreach Chair — Open
Webmaster — Frank Keeney
Field Trips — Eric Johnson
Speaker’s Bureau — Theresa Thomas
Donations/Grants Chair — Open
Parliamentarian — Martha Mullens
Facebook Manager — Open
Newsletter Editor — Troy Mullens
  media@txnativeplants.org
Assistant Newsletter Editor —
  Martha Mullens
Southwest Subcourthouse Garden Leaders
  Gailon Hardin & Dawn Hancock
Native Plant Gardens at the Southwest
  Regional Library Leaders —
  Theresa Thomas & Char McMorrow
Molly Hollar Wildscape Garden Leader —
  Ann Knudsen
Fielder House Garden Leaders —
  Josephine Keeney & Jane Osterhuis
O.S. Gray Natural Area —
  Josephine Keeney
White Settlement Waystation —
  Tom Salmi (new)
Publicity Chair — Chairperson needed
NLCP Classes Coordinator —
  Sandy Fountain, Theresa Thomas

Questions, Comments?
Use this link below!
Info@txnativeplants.org

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I have been enjoying the native flowers in my gardens. The first several weeks of June is when the beauty of the native wildflowers seems to reach its pinnacle. It is difficult for me to do much more than observe my gardens! Oh well, why do work in June that I can do in July?

Today I am going to talk about a milkweed. One of my favorite flowers, Butterfly milkweed / *Asclepias tuberosa*. Many refer to this species as Butterflyweed. Once you have seen their striking orange flowers, their beauty will be imprinted in your memory. They are an eye catcher for humans, butterflies, and bees. This milkweed is native from central Texas east into Louisiana, north into Oklahoma, the far west Trans-Pecos, and the eastern portion of the panhandle. It is native to Tarrant County, so watch for it when outdoors or on the road.

I have been cultivating Butterfly milkweed for four years. Although I purchased and planted my first plants, I have grown many since by seed. My count today is 23 plants in four of my nine gardens (not counting this year’s numerous small seedlings). To grow by seed, simply scarify the damp ground surface, toss the seeds, walk on them with flat soled shoes, and then place a light ground cover of small leaves. I try to plant within a few days of rain in late September or anytime in October and November. They prefer full sun, but will do just fine in part sun.

Butterfly milkweed does not produce the milky sap like the other milkweeds. Since the Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweeds, they are toxic to birds and other predators. I have heard several people say to not cultivate Butterfly milkweeds because they do not protect Monarch butterflies from predators with the noxious milkweed sap. However, I have never observed Monarch eggs or caterpillars on Butterfly milkweed. Actually I rarely see Monarchs land on one, even to suck the nectar from the flowers. I have observed Monarchs feeding on the nectar from the Common milkweeds / *A. syriaca*. In four years, none of my other native milkweeds have ever bloomed. Please let me know if you have observed Monarch eggs or caterpillars on a Butterfly milkweed.

According to Wikipedia the genus name, *Asclepias* was derived from Asklepios, the Greek god of medicine. It also states that *A. tuberosa* is also known as pleurisy root, because its roots were used as a treatment for pleurisy and other lung diseases. *The Old Farmer’s Almanac* says that milkweeds were considered a natural remedy for many ailments including the removal of warts, dysentery, coughs, typhus fever, and asthma. Please note that it is toxic and may cause skin irritation. Do not get the milky sap into your eyes. I have heard of Butterfly milkweed being referred to as a short lived perennial. So far mine are doing great and propagating by seed. I lost none to the severe cold winter. In fact, I probably had a hundred seedlings in the south garden this spring. Most are being removed because they are surrounding Green milkweeds / *A. viridis* in this garden. The Butterfly milkweeds will grow too tall and put the Green milkweeds in the shade. I am giving many away and am trying my luck at potting the Butterfly milkweed seedlings for the fall native plant sale.

Often you hear complaints about aphids and milkweed bugs damaging milkweeds. Aphids (*Aphididae spp.*) suck sap from plants, generally at the soft new growth at the top of the plant. Often there are ants milking the honeydew from the aphids and running supply lines up and down the plant. I have only observed aphids on Butterfly milkweeds a few times. Damage has always been minimal.

Continued on Page 4
According to Garrett and Beck (Texas Bug Book The Good The Bad and The Ugly) a positive impact of aphids is that they eliminate unfit plants. If you just cannot live with the aphids, then smash them with your fingers or wash them off with water. Before you wash them off with water, confirm there are no butterfly eggs and relocate any caterpillars to another milkweed plant.

I have observed many milkweed bugs (Oncopeltus fasciatus) on milkweeds. Garrett and Beck have a good write-up on milkweed bugs and that is the primary source of my information. They use their large mouthparts to eat the seed pods and green tissue of the milkweeds. Because the milkweed bugs taste bad, they have few predators. Like with aphids, I have never seen a milkweed die from milkweed bugs. I have observed damage to the leaves and the flower buds often disappear. Before the flowers bloom and are covered by the sepals is when I see the milkweed bugs appear. An entire flower head will look like it is going to bloom and then (it seems to occur overnight) become dead stems due to what I suspect is the milkweed bugs. So the worst damage I have observed is the plants do not have the beautiful blooms. To limit the damage from milkweed bugs, I have planted my milkweeds in separate groups throughout my gardens. However, it has not been an effective deterrent this year.

Butterfly milkweeds draw many pollinators including different species of bees, Hairstreak and Sulphur butterflies, and an occasional hummingbird. In my gardens, they typically bloom from April to September. If you do not have Butterfly milkweed in your garden, than I highly recommend you purchase some at our Chapter’s fall native plant sale.

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.

**Flowers in the Garden**

by Sarah Shahzad

*There's a garden in a special town,*
*Belongs to a special one,*
*They had many lilies and roses,*
*But they can’t find and figure it out,*
*Somehow they found something they don’t see,*
*A flower can be special as it be,*
*Unknown color, they say,*
*Wishing they could stay,*
*In the garden of flowers,*
*With the special kind, they find,*
*Wishing they could keep,*
*Unknown with the lilies and roses.*

One of my Butterfly milkweeds has yellow flowers 5/2

Continued on Page 5
The President’s Corner - July 2021 - by Gordon Scruggs

Continued from Page 4

Close-up of Butterfly milkweed flowers 6/21.JPG

Photos © Gordon Scruggs

South garden 5/21

Bees on Butterfly milkweed 6/21.JPG

Continued on Page 6
Continued from Page 5

Bush sunflower with Prairie verbena and Butterfly milkweed in the background 5/21

Butterfly milkweed flowers 6/21

Butterfly milkweed in full bloom 5/21
Snapdragon Vine — Flower of the Month for July  
*Story & Photographs by Josephine Keeney*

Snapdragon Vine, Roving Sailor, *Maurandella antirrhiniflora*  
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

This vine has little leaves similar to Ivy and looks fragile, but don’t let it fool you, it can climb up to ten feet and develop many side branches enabling it to cover a trellis in a big hurry.

It is a tender perennial that dies to the ground in winter and comes back with renewed vigor in the spring.

Snapdragon vine is not picky about soil types and will be happy in partial shade with a little moisture. You can propagate this vine by seed or cuttings and it is easy to grow.

But the most amazing feature about this plant are the gorgeous blue-purple flowers that look like snapdragons and bloom abundantly covering the vine with beautiful color that lasts from spring to fall.

In case that wasn’t enough it is also a larval host for the beautiful Common Buckeye butterfly.

All in all, this is a very desirable vine for the home or butterfly garden.
Snapdragon Vine — Flower of the Month for July

Continued from Page 7

Seed pods

Vine on trellis

Vine with flowers

Photographs by Josephine Keeney
Desert Peony
by Martha Mullens

Featherleaf Desert Peony (Peonia) *Acountia runcinata*
by Martha Mullens

The photo of this flower caught Troy’s eye on Facebook, but it was not identified. He sent the picture to me and thus we started the search for a name. I was surprised that it is in the aster family and not a peony at all. It was previously in the *Perezia* genus. It is perennial and grows to about 1 foot tall, blooming from March to November. The blooms are very pretty, ranging from rose-red to pink to lavender to purple, but they are only about 1 inch across. There is no stem, but several flower stalks arise from the base of long enlarged roots. Thus a few plants look like a colony.

Peonia does not grow naturally in the North Central Region, but it is a Texas native plant with a beautiful bloom. It occurs along the coast through South Texas and the Edwards Plateau to the far west. There are about 80 species of *Acountia*, but only 5 species occur in the southwestern US with the rest in Central to South America.

Although, not native to our area, I do not know why it wouldn’t thrive in a garden since it does not seem ‘picky’ about soil that is well-drained. Desert Peony is found naturally in loam, clay, sand, and caliche, as well as, on rocky slopes and ledges, around boulders, and in arroyos. It prefers partial shade, but will grow in full sun to bright shade. Partial shade reduces better flower development. Growing from seeds is best because it does not multiply rapidly. Peonia can also be grown in containers. The flowers are not only attractive to humans, but they are nectar-rich and attract butterflies and other insects.

References:

Ajilvsgi, Geyata, *Wildflowers of Texas*, Shearer Pub., Fredericksburg, TX, 2003
Eason, Michael, *Wildflowers of Texas*, Timber Press, Portland, OR, 2018
Enquist, Marshall, *Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country*, Lone Star Botanical, Austin, Texas, 1987
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](http://www.txnativeplants.org)  
Thurs., July 1: 6:30 PM * zoom: No meeting  
Tuesday, July 27 board meeting

**Native Prairies Association of Texas Fort Worth Chapter**
In-person hikes, events, tours and meet-ups require masks.  
Mon., July 12: 7 PM zoom: Herbal uses of Native and prairie plants by Christina Moon  
Check website for events and field trip  
[fwnpat@gmail.com](mailto:fwnpat@gmail.com)

**Cross Timbers Master Naturalist**  
FWBG  
No in-person meetings. No in-person group activities.  
Mon., July 19: 7:00 -8:30PM zoom: Some Uncommon Wildflowers of the LBJ Grasslands by Suzanne Tuttle

**Tarrant County Master Gardener Association**  
[https://tarrantmg.org/](https://tarrantmg.org/)
Live meetings suspended until further notice.  
July 1 9:30 AM Zoom online meeting: Area Prairie Restoration by Ben Jones

**TX A & M AgriLife Water University** offers free online classes.  
Registration required.  
Check website for details.  
[wateruniversity.tamu.edu](http://wateruniversity.tamu.edu)
Aggie Horticulture Courses online  
AgriLife Courses online

**Fort Worth Botanic Garden**  
[https://www.fwbg.org/](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.  
July 1-Dec. 31 9:00 AM-3:PM Self-Guided Exploration $6 registered/$12 unregistered  
July 1-Dec. 31 9:00 AM-6:00 PM PM Stickwork: artist Patrick Dougherty weaves plants into sculptures free for Members/regular admission to nonmembers

**BRIT**  
[https://www.brit.org/](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.  
Courses online free:

- Tues., July 6: 12-1:00 PM Plant-Pollinator Network Dynamics of A Shale Barren  
- Wed., July 22 5:30-7:30 PM Gardening for Rainwater: BRIT’S Bioswales  
- Members $15/nonmembers $18 Pre-registration required  
- Sat, July 17 8-9 AM A Slow Garden Experience (outdoors)  
- More expensive classes online:
  - Sat., July 10 9-11 AM Gardening with Native Plants members $35/$40 nonmembers  
  - Sat., July 17 10-11:30 AM Cactus Garden Cut-Outs members $32/$37 nonmembers  
  - Fri., June 26 10 AM-12 PM Propagation: Air Layering & Grafting $40 memb/$45 non

**Xerces Society** Books available at Xerces gift shop online for $57 donation:

**Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge**  
[https://www.fwnaturecenter.org/](https://www.fwnaturecenter.org/)
Hardwicke Interpretive Center Open 9 AM-4:30 PM. Admission tickets for all visits must be purchased online in advance of visit. $6 adults, children $2, seniors $3. Dogs $1. 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.  
FWNCR open 7 AM-5 PM until September.  
Activities for $5/members free. Pre-registration required.  
Flowering Plants Walk 9-10:30 AM: June 30, July 1, July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29  
Early Birds 8:30-10:30 AM July 5, 12, 19, 26  
Nature Hikes 9-10:30 AM July 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30  
Summer Camps offered for Kindergarten through 7th grade. 9 AM-3 PM Tue.-Fri.  
Members $140/nonmembers $160  
Check out website for more details

Volunteer opportunities  
Cont. on page 11
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.

As the weather warms and we want to get outside and volunteer, remember there may are restrictions: Although Governor Abbot has rescinded the mask requirement for fully vaccinated people outdoors, it is recommended that small groups 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 Kenney 3rd Mon.
River Legacy Park 701 NW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington

Leader: Theresa Thomas 2nd & 4th Thursdays 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 @ Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
9601 Fossil Ridge Rd, Fort Worth 76135 fwncc.org
817-392-7410
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
Leaders: 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

On what flower are these red "whiskers" found?

Hint: white flower.

Answer to last Months' quiz

What are the red parts?

Fruiting bodies for the Bordered Scale Lichen.

Send answer or request answer at info@txnativeplants.com
Barbara’s Buttons
by Martha Mullens

Many pinwheels of white
are a prairie’s delight.
No matter the weather
when a bunch do gather,
it is a pleasant sight.

Article on the next page
Have you ever wondered who Barbara was? I did some research, but it is still a mystery. I did find out the origin of the botanical name. However, the stories seem to differ slightly. That is the nature of historical ‘facts’. Michael Eason in his *Wildflowers of Texas* says that the plant is named in honor of Henry Marshall, an American botanist. Geyata Ajilvsgi in her *Wildflowers of Texas* states that the genus commemorates Dr. Moses Marshall (1758-1913), the nephew of Pennsylvanian Humphrey Marshall (1722-1801), who was considered the ‘father of American dendrology’ (the study of trees). *Flora of North Central Texas* concurs with Geyata and adds that Gotthilf Henry Ernest Muhlenberg (1753-1815), renown botanist of the period, requested the naming. Perhaps Henry and Moses are one in the same. I could not find evidence of this though. If you enjoy history, you should check out Moses and Humphry Marshall. They contributed a great deal to the accumulation of information about plants in Pennsylvania and territories west to the Missouri River in the late 1700s.

Barbara’s buttons occurs in ungrazed pastures, fields, meadows, prairies, open brush, woodlands, limestone outcrops, rocky hillsides, and road-sides. It is often a part of wildflower seed mixes that are scattered along highways.

Although I titled this article white Barbara’s buttons, the disk flowers can be cream and sometimes pink to purple. Unusual to the aster family, there are no ray flowers. The flowers are generally solitary on a leafless stalk and small, only about 1-1¼ inches across. The rosette of basal leaves are 5-6 inches long and the plant grows to about 2 feet tall. Therefore, if you put them in your garden, you need to plant several in clumps or along borders. Sally Wasowski, in her *Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region by Region*, recommends putting them in a rock or sand garden between stones or bricks of a patio where there is little traffic, along a narrow border, or anywhere you have have a well-drained space.

This perennial plant may seem delicate, but it is not. It is drought tolerant and will survive in sandy, clayey or chalky soils in full sun. An added bonus is that it has a pleasant fragrance. Bloom period is April to June. Also, the cut flowers do well for a bouquet. It attracts butterflies and insects. Seeds are readily available from Native American Seed Company and should be sown in the fall. After your plants are established, you can divide the roots in the fall or winter. This well-behaved plant could make a lovely addition to your landscape.
Pollinator Gardens by Josephine Keeney

Molly Hollar Wildscape

O.S.Gray Pollinator Garden
Pollinator Gardens  by Josephine Keeney

Fielder House Pollinator Garden

Knapp Heritage Park
Pollinator Gardens  by Josephine Keeney

Randol Mill Pollinator Garden

River Legacy Science center
Landscaping for lizards: Supporting garden biodiversity beyond the usual suspects

Many of us plant native plants for the flowers and to support healthy pollinator communities. But native plants’ benefits to biodiversity extend way beyond hummingbirds and bees. Dr. Frishkoff discusses some of the less-thought-about members of the North Texas biological community (reptiles and amphibians), why these creatures are interesting, how to support them in your garden, and why the DFW area, straddled between the arid west and humid east, is such an interesting place for biology in the garden.

Bio:
Dr. Luke Frishkoff is a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Texas at Arlington. His research focuses on how animal communities respond to changes in climate and habitat loss.

Texas Star Mushroom reported by Eric Johnson

I came across a news story about Texas star mushroom, *Chorioactis geaster*. The governor, Greg Abbot, signed a resolution June 18 making this mushroom the "State mushroom of Texas."

Eric Johnson
Membership and Hospitality

Membership Report, July 2021
By Beth Barber

How did you hear about the Native Plant Society? Why did you join? These are questions I would love to ask each of you. As we look for ways to increase and diversify our membership, I think the answer to these questions could help us. Since I can’t ask you in person right now, please feel free to send your answers to membership@txnativeplants.org. I would love to hear from you. Thanks, Beth

From Fort Worth, we want to welcome our new members - Jason McKenzie, Gaye Reed, and Sue Sanders. Also, a big welcome to Lorraine Pratt of Bedford.

Thanks also goes to all of our renewing members who continue to help our chapter be so successful.

We have 225 active members currently in our chapter.

Native Plant Society of Texas Member

Name
e-mail
Member ID #:
Membership Expires -
Member Since -

NPSOT Membership Card Example
Show card for discount at select NICE nurseries.

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
June 3, 2021
Online Zoom Meeting

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

Secretary Debbie Stilson: There were no comments on the May Minutes published in the June newsletter that came out today. They are approved.

Treasurer: The financials for this month income $10,131, expense: $6,826, for a net income of $3,305. The current bank balance is $19,903, but all the expenses have not come in from the plant sale. The net income from the sale was about $5,900 and the gross was about $9,400. This includes new memberships, a book bought, and milkweed purchased through the milkweed purchase program. The growers and volunteers were thanked for making the sale successful. We need a new treasurer and we will train you how to do it.

By-Laws Revisions: Martha Mullens explained that the By-Laws change has to do with getting the nominating committee going before August, as shown in Article IV Section 2 A. The president announces the nominating committee: the wording will change from at the August meeting to at the latest in the August General Membership meeting. These changes have been emailed out. Troy Mullens proposed the changes be accepted as read by parliamentarian Martha Mullens. Avon Burton seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Standing Rules Revisions: Martha Mullens explained that the Board has been using Workplace, a division of Facebook, to post things. The fees have recently increased, going from free to $40/person. The Board has decided to no longer use Workplace, so the wording in the Standing Rules about using it has been taken out. The wording in the Demonstration Garden Section has changed from 2019 to 2021 and includes the names of the nine current gardens. And also due to price increases, we are only offering one book to new members, the Michael Eason book, not a choice of books. These changes have also been been emailed out. Frank Keeney moved that we accept the changes to the Standing Rules as published. Eric Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Plant Sale: The spring plant sale was a big success. The fall plant sale is scheduled for October 30. There was a timing conflict so we could not get it earlier. We have until early September to get plants potted up for this sale.

Membership Beth Barber: We have 230 members and welcome to our new members from Fort Worth, Arlington, Haslet, Dallas, Southlake, Kennedale, Hurst, Burleson and Cleburne. The Tree Hugger Tree Service has joined at the Patron Level!

Demonstration Gardens: We have nine gardens. Please email info@txnativeplants.org or president@txnativeplants.org to find which one is close to you. Volunteer dates and addresses are also posted in the newsletter.

Newsletter Troy & Martha Mullens: The June issue of our award winning newsletter is out. Please email submissions to media@txnativeplants.org by June 15 to be placed in the July newsletter, which will be a special wildflower edition.

NICE: Natives Improve and Conserve Environments. The NICE plant of the season is the purple passionflower vine, also known as Passiflora incarnata and should be available at NICE nurseries soon.

Announcements:
Dr. Tiffany Lipsett is our new Executive Director. The Native Plant Society currently has approximately 2,700 members throughout the state and it is hoped that we shall grow due to her efforts.

There is a new non-profit online newspaper in Fort Worth called the Fort Worth Report. Please check out the article on native plants.

There is a photography contest, so please send in your photos to that instead of posting them on Facebook or Instagram. There is also a video contest.

There is a new membership database, very professional, where you can check your status.

We are following CDC Guidelines for the pandemic. Please email info@txnativeplants.org or president@txnativeplants.org for more information.

Minutes con’t on next page 21
Our chapter is offering the Level 1 Certification of the NLCP class on July 17. You have to take the first level class first and then you may take any of the others in any order. This class is for anyone, novices through professionals.

*The Fall Symposium* dates have been set for October 6 – 10. Please email Gordon at president@txnativeplants.org to volunteer to be on the nominating committee.

On Tuesday a couple of members attempted to go to Eric Strickland's house to rescue plants, which is on the same street as the Molly Hollar Wildscape, but were met with a road closure due to high water. This event was cancelled.

Meeting Adjourned 6:53 P.M.

Tonight's Presentation is "*Landscaping for Lizards: Supporting Biodiversity beyond the usual suspects*" by Dr. Luke Frishkoff from the University of Texas at Arlington.

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**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, Hospitality, Secretary, 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 - July 2021 (excerpted from _The Old Farmer's Almanac_)

The humblest rodent can tell of catastrophes. Late one night, investigating a faint sound that came from the kitchen closet, I found a mouse trapped in a glass bottle up on a high shelf. It was a deer mouse, an outdoor creature, usually, and a great gatherer of seeds and nuts. The bottle was a clean, empty quart. The mouse had evidently discovered our supply of birdseed and had hit on the plan of dropping sunflower seeds into the bottle for safe-keeping. With the bottle a quarter full of seeds, the mouse must have decided to visit his assets. Once in there, he couldn't get out.

I took the bottle down from the shelf. As I held him in his bottle, he looked up at me. I laid the bottle on its side in the closet and left it, so the mouse could walk out. Half an hour later he was still there. He couldn't or wouldn't leave. I could think of only one solution—a crash. I took the bottle outside, tilted it so seeds and mouse slid toward the neck, and gave its base a smart rap with a hammer. Nothing. Again. An explosion of glass, seeds, and escaping mouse. Sweeping up, I wondered what in the world he would tell his friends. Where would he begin?

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_Full Buck Moon on the 4th_

As summer peaks, the velvety antlers of male deer which first begin to sprout in early spring finish growing, forming pointed tips and hardening into their final glory. The sight of their magnificent racks against the summer sky led to the name, Full Buck Moon.

For farmers, high summer's the time to cut and cure hay to put away for winter feed. So July's full moon is also known as the Full Hay Moon.

July is also the month when thunderstorms are most frequent, so this month's full moon is sometimes called the Full Thunder Moon. (As I write this on June 7, it is thundering.)

July's full Moon will rise after sunset in the evening of Saturday, July 4, before reaching peak illumination at 12:44 A.M. Eastern Time on Sunday, July 5. Look towards the southeast to watch it rise above the horizon. How fun for our bright satellite to join Independence Day fireworks in the night sky!

Like last month, this month's full Moon brings with it a penumbral eclipse, which occurs when the Moon crosses through the faint outer edge of Earth's shadow (the penumbra), making part of the Moon appear ever-so-slightly darker than usual. Unlike a full lunar or solar eclipse, the visual effect of a penumbral eclipse is usually so minimal that it can be difficult to perceive at all. For this eclipse, only a small portion of the Moon will cross into the penumbra, making it even more difficult to see.

This eclipse will be visible from most of North America, except in the northernmost regions of Canada and Alaska. It will begin at 11:04 P.M. EDT (8:04 P.M. PDT) on July 4 and end at 1:56 A.M. EDT on July 5 (10:56 P.M. PDT on July 4).
Natives Improve and Conserve Environments (NICE) Summer Plant of the Season is Purple Passionflower Vine, *Passiflora incarnata* L.

For information on past plants of the season visit our webpage. [www.txnativeplants.org/portfolio/nice/](http://www.txnativeplants.org/portfolio/nice/)

**Welcome Archie's Gardenland as our newest NICE Native Plant Partner.** Please support our partners:

Archie's Gardenland  
6700 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, 76116  
817-737-6614  
[www.archiesgardenland.com/](http://www.archiesgardenland.com/)

EcoBlossom Nursery  
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(817) 572-0549  
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(817) 444-2400  
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2317 Fort Worth Hwy, Weatherford, 76087  
(817) 596-0003  
[www.stuartnurseryinc.com](http://www.stuartnurseryinc.com)

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*First bloom ever on our little desert willow*  
© Troy & Martha Mullens
This beautiful Eastern tiger swallowtail was nectaring on my Milkweed vine, Funastrum cynanoides and I was blessed to be able to capture this picture. I love these butterflies, they host mainly on trees, so I never get to see the caterpillars, but we are lucky to have a very large Arizona ash tree so we see the butterflies often.

By Josephine Keeney

The City of White Settlement
would like to thank the North Central Chapter Native Plant Society and Cross Timbers Master Naturalists Marcie Delgado, Holly Cameron and Avon Burton for volunteering their hard work and time to beautify the Municipal courtyard butterfly garden areas between Senior Center and the Recreation Center. As you can see they’ve done great work and we couldn’t be more appreciative! If you’d like to learn about volunteer opportunities around the City you can sign up for our volunteering app Helper Helper by going to https://app.helperhelper.com/signup/911 or you can call the Recreation Center at 817-246-5012
White Settlement Garden by Avon Burton

Marcie and I met in the garden today. We did some light maintenance. I had the pleasure of meeting her son, Desi, who absolutely loves the playground. I was blessed with a blown kiss as he left with his Mom.

We had the hose but with the recent evening showers we didn’t even need to water.

Several things are blooming, the container looks great, and the milkweed is doing well.
In the August 2018 issue I mentioned this book and did a full review in April 2019. It was the first exclusively Texas wildflower book we owned and was a gift from Troy’s brother in 1970. We used the hardcover version for many years, always keeping it in our vehicle. I still use it for reference. The only things that have changed since its publication in 1961 is the taxonomy where plant names have been reclassified in different families or the botanical names have been altered.

The reason I am revisiting this book is because Troy asked me to do so. As I have mentioned before, we collect books. It is a passion. Our son says we are hoarders. We have bookshelves lining every wall from floor to ceiling, including the hall, and stretched across the middle of one room. A few years ago I organized them into categories so that we could find a specific subject. Most of that is evident, but there are still stacks of books which won’t fit on the shelves. I browse these books looking for ones to review and share with you.

Troy looks through them also for different reasons. He came across a paperback copy of *Roadside Flowers of Texas*. Having been book sellers and antique dealers, we always look at the inside covers and the copyright dates for interest. This one is a copy of the first paperback printing in 1975. He came to me all excited and said I should write something. If you are not a book collector, maybe you don’t get excited about first editions. I understand. This particular book also contains an inscription: “to mama with love-Happy Mother’s Day 5-8-77”. Why would anyone get rid of that? We found this at Half Price Books for $2.25. You can find all sorts of books at fantastic prices.

When we began selling antiques and collectibles in the early 1980s, we discovered that having a good story to go along with an item would sell it much better. So have I ‘sold’ you on buying this book and adding it to your reference library? The drawings are not photos, but beautiful colored illustrations that show you accurate characteristics. We both ‘love’ this book. I know that you would also. Shop half price books and eBay $8-$22. Forget Amazon because they are too expensive.
If you read our newsletter, you may remember that I wrote a book review of *World of Wonders* by Aimee Nezhukumatathil in March.

Recently, I came across this magazine called *Ecotone* online and discovered articles by Aimee Nezhukumatathil. I am enamored with her mastery of both prose and poetry and her philosophy of life. She avidly promotes planting native plants for pollinators.

In this article she discusses her wins and losses with building her pollinator garden with a great sense of humor and a lovely outlook on life. It is worth the read.

Here are a few of her quotes:

“Native plants require much less watering, attract songbirds and butterflies, and improve air quality too. “

“Before we began this garden, I didn’t fully realize how easy it was to attract dazzling hummingbirds and other pollinators with just a few plants. Once I learned that even the humble bumblebee is a keystone species—an animal upon which other animals depend—it was a no-brainer to try and help them succeed in our garden.”

“Maybe if people knew that pipevine swallowtail butterflies nibble swamp milkweed leaves, they wouldn’t be so quick to dig up that patch of milkweed by the side of the highway and plant grass instead.”

“When I’m in the garden, I feel like what we carry and gather and tend is called love.”

Article in:
https://ecotonemagazine.org/map/to-see-the-veins-my-mississippi-pollinator-garden/?eType=EmailBlast-Content&eId=63d87032-758c-4ef8-987f-8d4610e26547

https://ecotonemagazine.org/ecotone-authors/aimee-nezhukumatathil/
Recommended Plant List
For North Central Texas

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.

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.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Key</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<td>Texas Red Oak</td>
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<td>Quercus texana</td>
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Continued on Page 29
### Recommended Plant List
For North Central Texas

**Key:**
- E= Evergreen
- D= Drought resistant in full sun
- P= Tolerates poor drainage
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- S= Shade tolerant
- F= Very showy in flower or fruit
- FF= very showy in fall foliage

#### Garden/Meadow Flowers

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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow-on-the-prairie</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Euphorbia bicolar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiderwort</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Tradescantia sp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Rain Lily</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Cooperia pedunculata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Cypress</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Ipomopsis rubra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Bluebell</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Eustoma exaltatum russellianum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-leaved Senna</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Senna roemeriana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Miltwort</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Polygala alba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Foxglove</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Penstemon c obae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Vines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Jessamine</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Gelsemin semprevivens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing Prairie Rose</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Rosa setigera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Honeysuckle</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Lonicera sempervivens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossvine</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Bignonia capreolata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passion Flower</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Passiflora incarnata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Creeper</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Perennials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackfoot Daisy</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Melampodium leucanthum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Weed</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calygothous</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Calygothous spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile Piquin</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Capsicum annuum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coreopsis</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Coreopsis lanceolata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-nerve Daisy</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Tetranerus scaposa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gayfeather</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Liatris punctata mucronata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greggs's mistflower</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Conoclinium greggi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mealy Blue Sage</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Salvia farinacea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Echinacea spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockrose</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Pavonia lasiospetala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Lantana</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Lantana urticoides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild red columbine</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Aquilegia canadensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winceup</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Callirhoe involucrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Columbine</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Aquilegia spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zexmenia</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Wedelia acapulcensis hispida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### North Central Texas Top Ten Invasives

- Japanese honeysuckle
- Glossy privet
- Chinese Privet
- Giant reed
- Chinese wisteria
- Vitex chaste-tree
- Chinaberry tree
- Melia azedarach
- 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 Dr. Luke Frishkoff
Landscaping for lizards: Supporting garden biodiversity
   beyond the usual suspects

July - No Program

Thursday, August 6, 2021 Chris Helzer, The Nature
Conservancy’s Director of Science in Nebraska
Purple Passionflower, Vine that is Gulf Fritillary butterfly larval host

**Description:** *Passiflora incarnata* L. is commonly known as Purple Passionflower or Maypop. It is a perennial vine reaching 12-36 ft in height, with glossy, dark-green tri-lobed leaves. In North Texas, expect Passionflower to die back to the ground each winter and sprout from the ground each spring.

**Flowers and Seeds:** Purple Passionflower has showy flowers. Blooms are lavender to purple, about five to six inches across and quite distinctive. Following flowering, three-inch yellow-orange fruit form that have edible pulp. After these dry, seed may be harvested. The blooming season starts in May/June and continues until frost. The genus *Passiflora* and common names for *P. incarnata* L. come from its flowers and fruit. The floral parts were said to represent parts of the Christian crucifixion, with the ten petal-like parts representing disciples of Jesus and the other floral parts representing other aspects of the Christian story. Maypop refers to the fruits that pop when crushed.

**Planting sites:** Purple Passionflower 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. It should be planted on or near a structure on which it can climb.

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

**Comments:** Purple Passionflower is a must-have for the butterfly garden. It is the preferred larval host for larva of the Gulf Fritillary butterfly, a three-inch across bright orange butterfly. In a good season, the larva can completely defoliate a Purple Passionflower plant, but don’t worry – the leaves will grow back to support more larva. For this reason, it’s also a great plant for a children’s garden, where children can observe the butterfly larva grow, pupate and undergo metamorphosis to become butterflies. Purple Passionflower is also a larval host for the Red-banded Hairstreak, Banded Hairstreak and Variegated Fritillary butterflies. Purple Passionflower is easy to confuse with some of its non-native cousins. Look for the three-lobed leaf shape as an identifier of this particular Passionflower. Passionflowers can spread extensively by root suckers. It is somewhat deer resistant. Consider growing Purple Passionflower instead of invasive non-natives like Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) or one of the exotic Wisteria species (*Wisteria floribunda* or *W. sinensis*).

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.

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The Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter usually meets on the 1st Thursday of each month, excluding January and July, at 6:30 pm in the Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center at Fort Worth Botanic Garden. In support of social distancing measures our meetings will continue to take place online until it is safe to meet in person.

www.txnativeplants.org

Written by Dr. Becca Dickstein
Bill Freiheit

*Dalea reverchonii*

*Zeltnera beyrichii*, Denton County, June 21, 2012
From seed collected in Fairy Texas.

Carolyn Ross

Devils claw I grew this from seeds Sharon Lane gave me… Notice the pollinators highway into the flower

Corinna Benson

Greenthread
Dagmar Higgens

Standing cypress, including at least one yellow one from a property out in Bosque County near the Brazos River

Martha Mullens

Sharp-pod morning glory, *Ipomoea cordatotriloba*

Grace Darling

This photo was taken Sunday at the Blackland Prairie Site on New York Ave., about ½ mile south of I-20. It needs to be a preserve and definitely not a park; about ⅔ of it is remnant native prairie, never plowed, and has gilgai. Thankfully undeveloped so far, and the chiggers keep most visitors away
Hardy Jackson

Successful afternoon of looking for rare plants with my buddy Michael Eason.

We weren’t disappointed with several sightings of this Prostrate Milkweed (*Asclepias prostrata*) in bloom among other species.

Starr County

Jeanette Hyden

Indian paintbrush close up and planted along a slope in the distance, April 20, 2021, Tarrant County, TX

Place yourself in a Texas prairie
Important note

We get hundreds of e-mails per week. If you submitted a flower photo and it is not included, it probably dissappeared into dark hyperspace. Please re-submit and I will include it in a future issue.
Important note

We get hundreds of e-mails per week. If you submitted a flower photo and it is not included, it probably dissappeared into dark hyperspace. Please re-submit and I will include it in a future issue.
Kim Conrow

_Silphium albiflorum_
On the Benbrook Prairie
2 June 2021

Common names: White Rosinweed, White-flowered Rosinweed, Compass Plant
Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Southwest Library by Theresa Thomas
Suzanne Tuttle

Giant Coneflowers at Talbot Brothers Prairie outside of New Boston

Purple-headed Sneezeweed at Mary Talbot Prairie outside New Boston

White Rosinweed at White Settlement Prairie Remnant

White Rosinweed with sharpshooter. Enlargement of cropped photo below
Newsletter Requirement Suggestions
1. All submissions due by the 15th of the preceding month. Exceptions are at the discretion of the Editors.
2. Articles (text) should preferably be in plain text form. (No pdf’s). Any special formatting requirements should be noted. (.doc .pages and .odt are OK)
3. Photographs & charts should be sent separately as large as possible. Location within the article should be noted. Example <Photo 1 goes here>
4. Do not embed the photographs in the article. Remember, the article will most likely be in two column format for easy reading.
5. Please include a caption with each photograph and note any individual names of people.
Examples:
Photo names: Photo1.jpg, Photo2.jpg, Photo3.tif etc.
Photo Caption examples:
Photo1 - Bluebell in my Garden
Photo2 - Field trip group, names (l to r): Bill Smith, Mary Jones, etc.
Photo3 - Black Willow at FWNCR
Photo4 - Flower, (Credit - Name, organization)

August Program
Chris Helzer, The Nature Conservancy’s Director of Science in Nebraska

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

___ Student $35 ___ Family (2 or more) $60
___ Senior (65+) $35 ___ Patron $100
___ Limited Income $35 ___ Benefactor $250
___ Individual $45 ___ Supporting $500
___ Lifetime $1200 ___ Additional Chapter(s) $6

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