



NATIVES ON THE GROW



Newsletter of the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas

*Dedicated to the understanding, preservation, and enjoyment
of the native flora of the Texas Hill Country*

April 2010

Website: www.npsot.org/kerrville

For your Calendar:

Two BIG April Events at Riverside Nature Center

NPSOT Monthly Meeting

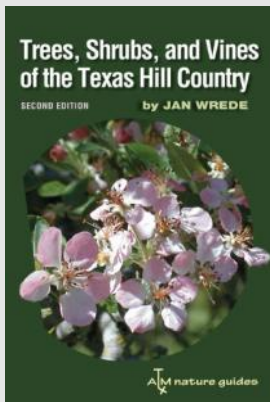
Annual "Earth Day" Celebration

"Hill Country Woody Plant Conservation: Issues and Answers"

**Tuesday, April 6th – 2pm at RNC
Ms. Jan Wrede**

Our April meeting will feature Jan Wrede, who is the Director of Education and Citizen Science at the Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne. Ms. Wrede will speak on "Hill Country Woody Plant Conservation: Issues and Answers." The program begins at 2:00 p.m. and will cover such topics as conservation gardening, deer management, adopting priority plant protection and the Upper Cibolo Creek watershed protection plan.

Ms. Wrede holds B.A. and M.A. degrees and has 15 years of classroom experience teaching biology, marine science, chemistry, and environmental studies. She writes a weekly column for local newspapers and is the author of two books, *Texans Love Their Land* and *Trees, Shrubs and Vines of the Texas Hill Country*.



Earth Day Celebration and Native Plant Sale

**Saturday, April 17th
8 am – 3 pm at RNC**



The Spring Festival you have come to expect with a large selection of native plants at reasonable prices, exciting activities for the kids, and interesting seminars for the adults. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. The Earth Day Celebration is co-sponsored by Riverside Nature Center and the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society. Come for family fun all day. Admission is FREE.

Members of NPSOT and RNC can buy plants at the presale Friday, April 16 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm.

Join the fun by helping on Friday or Saturday!

**Speakers, Displays,
Kids Activities & More
Free Family Fun!**



Message from the President:



Hello Native Plant Lovers:

NATIVE PLANTS FOR SALE

at Riverside Nature Center's Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 17.

Please come and bring your friends and neighbors. NPSOT will have an information table. **NPSOT and RNC "members only"**

can purchase plants early, and will have the best choice of plants at the Presale Friday, April 16 from 5 to 6:30 pm.

N.I.C.E. (Natives Instead of Common Exotics) was started by the Boerne Chapter of NPSOT and implemented by many NPSOT chapters. The N.I.C.E. program works with nurseries to encourage the use of natives. Look for N.I.C.E. displays and purchase your brightly-colored and fast-growing **Crossvine** (see page 3) at Plant Haus 2, Alltex Nursery/Landscapes, and Natives of Texas.

Two NPSOT members told me at the March meeting how pleased they were with evening meetings. One member had children coming home from school and one worked in San Antonio. They would both like to be active in NPSOT but cannot attend afternoon meetings. Thank you for all your interest in NPSOT.

My yard is full of bluebonnets. Many were from seeds I planted two years ago, and the seeds just waited until they liked the weather. 2010 should be a great wildflower year, so talk about our wonderful Texas wildflowers to all your acquaintances. Maybe we can convert them to become wildflower enthusiasts!!!

Enjoy the beautiful wildflowers this year.

Sincerely,

Edna Platte

President

NPSOT, Kerrville Chapter

Coffee and Cookies!



Let's start our next meeting again with coffee and cookies while we mix and mingle and make new friends!

Can you bring cookies this time?

For our April 6th meeting, we again need 2 people to each bring 3 dozen cookies to our meeting. Please email [Cindy A.](mailto:Cindy.A) if you can do so this month! Please have cookies here 10-15 minutes before meeting time.

Thank you!

Your Officers 2009-2010

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platte@ktc.com

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mmecke@stx.rr.com

Vice President-Outreach

Diane McMahon

jmcmahon@stx.rr.com

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trishnbill@hctc.net

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Cindy Anderson

billcindy@omniglobal.net

Director of Membership

Nina Wagner

wagnina@windstream.net

Director-at-Large

Scott Magee

smagee@hctc.net

Committee Chairpeople:

Library Garden: Bob Richie

N.I.C.E. Project: Melinda Wasson and Cynthia Johnson

Information Table: Sharon Walling

Webmaster: Raúl Peña

N.I.C.E. Program

(Natives Instead of Common Exotics)

Plant of the Season — Spring 2010

CROSSVINE

(*Bignonia capreolata*)

Sponsored by the Fredericksburg and Kerrville Chapters of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

This beautiful climbing vine has showy trumpet-shaped flowers that hang in clusters of two to five. The 2-inch long blooms appear March through May and can vary in color from red-orange with yellow throats to yellow with brick-red throats. The vine climbs by means of claws at the end of tendrils that allow them to cling to fences, stone and brick without support. The leaves are dark green and glossy and in winter change to reddish purple. Known as semi-evergreen, it behaves more as an evergreen plant in Hill Country.

Crossvine prefers sandy loam and limestone soils with some moisture. It blooms best in full sun but will tolerate shade well. Hummingbirds are attracted to the flowers and it's an early nectar source for butterflies. Protect this plant from deer in winter.

Please consider adding this lovely vine to your garden this spring.



Please visit the following N.I.C.E. nurseries in Kerrville to find this wonderful native plant!

*Thank them for their support of the program,
buy a plant for your garden,
and help spread the word about **NICE!** Plants.*

- ◆ **Alltex Nursery** — 1302 Bandera Hwy.
- ◆ **Natives of Texas** — 4256 Medina Hwy.
- ◆ **Plant Haus 2** — 528 Jefferson St.

Participating N.I.C.E. nurseries in Fredericksburg are:

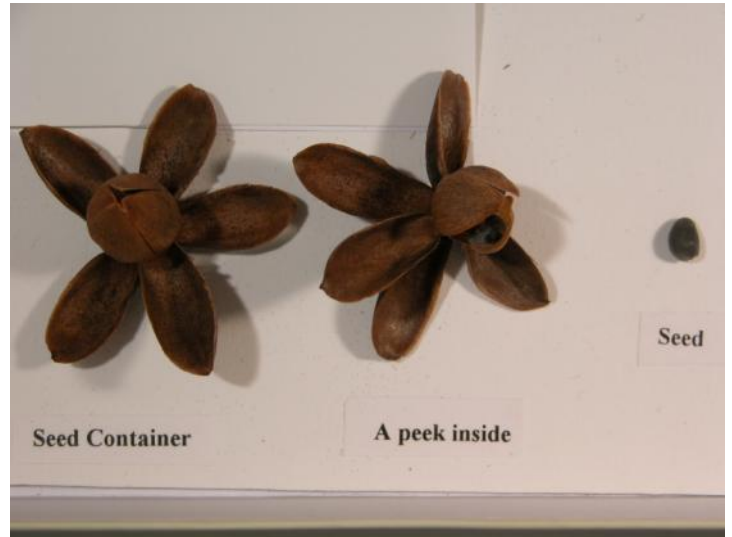
- ◆ Dodds Family Tree Nursery
- ◆ Friendly Natives Nursery & Landscape
- ◆ Sutherland Lumber Company
- ◆ Woerner Feed and Garden Supply.

FOCUS ON NATIVES: **Alamo Vine**

A monthly feature submitted by **Barbara Lowenthal**



Photograph by Bill Lindeman



Photograph by Jim Stanley

Type: Vine

Length: to about 10 feet

Bloom Period: May to October

Longevity: Perennial

Growth habit: Low-climbing, trailing, multi-stemmed.

Growing conditions: Sun, dappled shade. Found along stream banks, naturally.

Leaves: Palmate, deeply lobed, margins toothed, rounded.

Flowers: Cup-shaped, spreading, about 2 inches across, 1 to 2 per peduncle (stem), white with purplish red centers.

Deer resistant: **NO**

Availability: local nurseries that carry native plants

Remarks: This vine climbs on fence wires, over shrubs, into trees or just trails along the ground. Works well in a native plant garden but will need a little supplemental watering in drought periods. In the late summer and fall, the fruit ripens into what look like wooden flowers, quite showy.

Resources: Enquist, M. 1987. **Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country**. Lone Star Botanical, Austin, Texas.

Diggs, G.M., B.L. Lipscomb, and R.J. O'Kennon. 1999. **Shinners and Mahler's Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas**. SIDA, Botanical Miscellany, No. 16. Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas and Austin College, Sherman, Texas.

Featured sponsor this month:

Native American Seed - Junction, TX

Thinking of scattering seeds around your place? Wondering which seeds belong? Then wonder no more! Check out our sponsor, Native American Seed, to find just what will work in your area.

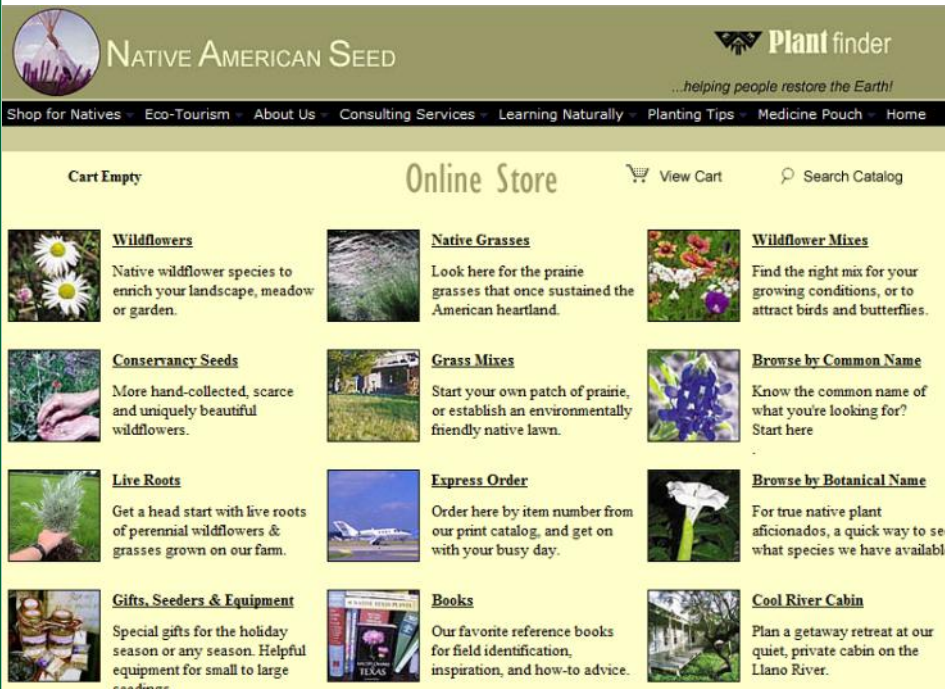
Native American Seed is a family-owned business founded by Jan and Bill Neiman in 1989 near Dallas-Fort Worth. In 1995 they moved to a beautiful farm on the South Llano River just outside the town of Junction.

What makes them different from many other wildflower seed companies is their commitment to offering superior customer service, and *only* those seeds that are native to this bioregion. You won't find African daisies, bluebonnets grown in China, or

even California poppies in any of their mixes — they sell seeds and roots native to

the Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana region. For more information and to see their online catalog (pictured below), go to the website www.seedsource.com or give them a call at 1-800-728-4043 and they'll be glad to send you a free catalog.

Become native to your place. Choose a path of stewardship and a lifetime of wonder and enjoyment.



They even have a charming 2-bedroom cabin for rent just steps from the beautiful Llano River. Swimming, fishing, and canoeing to the rapids are all possible here, with a canoe and keowas (similar to kayak) available. You can also enjoy birdwatching, native plants, night sky gazing, or hiking around the property. Call or check online for availability.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, March 30, 7 pm Fredericksburg NPSOT Monthly Meeting

Gillespie County Historical Society Social Hall at 312 W. San Antonio, Fredericksburg. Topic: "Riparian Plants – the Key to Healthy Creeks and Rivers" by Steve Nelle, Wildlife Biologist. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, April 6, 2 pm at Riverside Nature Center THIS CHAPTER'S Monthly Meeting — see page 1

Saturday, April 10 Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT Native Plant Sale to be held at MarketPlatz, Fredericksburg

AND

Hill Country Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale
9 am to 4 pm at Kerr County AgriLife Extension Office,
3655 Highway 27, Kerrville. See [website](#) for more details.

Tuesday, April 13, 11:30 am - 12:45 pm
Brown Bag Lunch & Learn at Riverside Nature Center
"The Geology of the Hill Country" will be presented by Dr. Susan Longacre, who received her PhD in geology from UT Austin. Dr. Longacre is an active member of the Riverside Nature Center and Hill Country Master Naturalists. Adults \$6.00, \$3.00 for members.

Saturday, April 17, 8 am – 3 pm Earth Day Celebration and Plant Sale, Riverside Nature Center
The Spring Festival you have come to expect with a large selection of native plants at reasonable prices, exciting activities for the kids, and interesting seminars for the adults. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. The Earth Day Celebration is co-sponsored by Riverside Nature Center and the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society. Come for family fun all day. Admission is FREE.

Tuesday, April 20, 10-11:30 am "National Volunteer Week" at RNC will feature a morning of fun and festivities highlighted by a tour of the meadow with Barbara Lowenthal. Current volunteers and non-volunteers are all invited! Come and enjoy the refreshments and festivities. You will especially enjoy the meadow as Barbara tells you about the plants that are showing and the ones that are just beginning to appear. FREE.

Fourth Monday Each Month (USUALLY) at 7 pm
Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists
Normally held at Riverside Nature Center. Free and open to the public. See [website](#) to confirm time and program details.

Welcome To Our Newest Members!



We are thrilled to welcome the following new members to our Kerrville Chapter of NPSOT:

- ♦ **Barbara Fabrick**
(Atlanta, GA)
- ♦ **David & Barbara Lingle**
(Ingram)

Free Plants from Anne Moss!

I have both Maximillian sunflowers and goldenrod — a large patch of each — needing a new, sunny home.



Good for naturalizing. Take part or all.



Anne Moss
Tel. 895-1568

Native Plant Society of Texas

The Native Plant Society of Texas wants to preserve our state’s rich heritage for future generations. NPSOT is a non-profit organization run by volunteers. We work to promote native plant appreciation, research, and conservation through 32 chapters located around the state. **Please support NPSOT by becoming a member or making a donation.** Membership forms are available at chapter meetings and the NPSOT website www.npsot.org. *For IRS income tax purposes, the full amount of your NPSOT membership dues is tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.*

Membership categories and annual dues:

Individual :	\$25
Couple/Family :	\$40
Student:	\$15
Senior Individual (65+) :	\$20
Senior Couple (one 65+) :	\$30
Group :	\$50
Patron :	\$100
Benefactor :	\$250
Supporting :	\$500
Corporate Sponsor :	\$1000
Lifetime (one-time payment for individual or couple):	\$1000

NOTE: NPSOT dues are sent to the state organization located in Fredericksburg (which is not the same as the Fredericksburg NPSOT Chapter.) The state organization returns 15% of the dues back to the local chapters.

STATE OFFICE
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS
 P.O. Box 3017 Fredericksburg, TX 78624
 320 W. San Antonio St. 830-997-9272
 (Office Manager is Pam Middleton.)
www.npsot.org

Note to Members:

*Renewal letters are mailed to all members at **the beginning of the month your membership expires.***

NAMETAGS are kept at RNC and brought out for each NPSOT meeting. They help us get to know each other! If you are a new member, we are already making one for you and we will have it at the next meeting at RNC. If yours is missing, please contact our Director of Membership, Nina Wagner, at wagnina@windstream.net or phone her at 896-5903 before our next meeting.

Our Goals:

- ◆ To educate both our members and the general public, and to foster a greater awareness and understanding of our native flora;
- ◆ To preserve rare and endangered species and their habitats;
- ◆ To encourage landscaping with appropriate native plants, for their beauty, ease of maintenance, and water-conserving qualities;
- ◆ To protect, conserve and restore native plants threatened by development;
- ◆ To encourage the responsible propagation of native plants;
- ◆ To promote an appreciation and understanding of current, historical and potential uses of native plants.



Native Plant Society of Texas

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

**The following businesses contribute annually to our Chapter.
Please support them as well!**

Alltex Nursery/Landscapes



Landscape Design & Installation
 Danny & Wendy Massey
 1302 Bandera Highway, Kerrville, TX
 830-895-5242
www.alltexlandscapes.com

The Plant Haus 2

528 Jefferson St.
 Kerrville, TX 78028
 Phone: 830-792-4444 or 1-800-887-3014
 Karen King Smith
 Texas Certified Master Nurseryman
 Email: kksmith6@ktc.com

Natives of Texas

Hill Country Native Plants
 4256 Medina Hwy
 Kerrville, TX 78028
 830-896-2169
 Website: <http://www.nativesoftexas.com/>
 Email: dwinningham@mac.com

Wildgoose Gallery and Store

Manufacturers of Luggage & Leather Goods,
 Backpacks, Fanny Packs, Totes, Native Plant/
 Wildlife Field Guides, Wildlife & Western Art Gallery,
 Custom Furniture, Accessories & Gifts
 3187 Junction Highway, Ingram, TX
 830-367-5553 or 800-749-1805
<http://www.wildgoosemanufacturing.com/>

Native American Seed

www.seedsource.com



**Become a
NPSOT Sponsor!**

Contact Trish Stone
trishnbill@hctc.net
 238-3132

