



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*

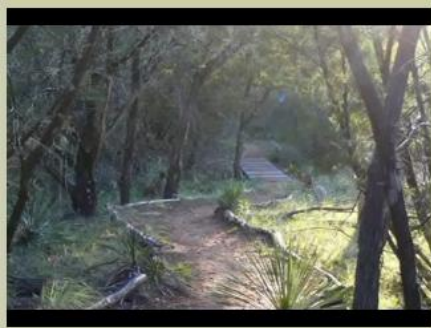
May 2010

Website: www.npsot.org/kerrville

May 4th Meeting — Field Trip to Fredericksburg

**We'll visit the Fredericksburg Nature Center,
located at Lady Bird Johnson Park
for an Evening Wildflower Walk and Picnic
Tuesday, May 4, 5:30 p.m.**

Our May 4 meeting will be a field trip to Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park in Fredericksburg. Please join us at Pavilion I at the park promptly at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy the beautiful native wildflowers and other plants on a walking tour of the park trails. Everyone is invited to attend and participation is free — just wear comfortable shoes and bring a picnic dinner if you'd like to eat together after the walk. If you have questions about the outing, please call 830-257-2185.



The park is located on Highway 16, south of Fredericksburg near the airport, Gillespie County Fair grounds, and horse-race track. From Kerrville, simply drive Highway 16 north until reaching the park. (A sign for the park is on the Highway 16 shoulder one mile ahead of the park entrance.) The park is on the left-hand side of the highway. Once in the park, proceed to Pavilion I and look for the "NPSOT" sign.

Those interested in carpooling can meet at the Riverside Nature Center and will need to depart from there no later than 4:45 p.m. to assure an on-time arrival at the park.

Y'all Come! Feel free to bring a friend or spouse & let's enjoy the beauty of nature!

Message from the President:



Dear Native Plant People:

I hope to see you all at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park in Fredericksburg for the May 4 field trip. Plan to bring a picnic so we can all get to know each other better. Also invite your friends and acquaintances to come because the guided walk will be a great opportunity to learn about Hill Country plants.

Entry into the Kerr County Water Saver Landscape Contest starts this month and ends May 10. For information and entry forms visit www.hgcd.org/landscape.html or call 896-4110 and ask to receive the landscape contest entry form by mail. The homes of two NPSOT members won last year and at least three of the judges are NPSOT members.

Now is the time to begin planning to attend the annual NPSOT symposium in Denton, from October 7th-10th. The theme will be **HELP TEXAS Save Water, Money and Wildlife** and an especially good program is being planned. You will receive information in the mail or visit www.npsot.org/symposium2010.

On May 22, Riverside Nature Center will host a full-day workshop about Texas invasive plants such as ligustrums, chinaberry trees, nandinas, etc. This workshop is sponsored and led by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. This workshop is filling up rapidly. To learn more, please refer to the email I sent to NPSOT members on April 22 or contact Phyllis Muska at 830-864-5747 or pmuska@windstream.net.

I especially want to thank everyone who helped at the Earth Day and the Plant Sale. We sold virtually all the plants.

Enjoy all the spring flowers.

Sincerely,

Edna Platte

President
NPSOT, Kerrville Chapter

Welcome New Members!

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

♦ **Mary Hayes**
(Kerrville)

♦ **Pat Kobe**
(Kerrville)

♦ **Karen Pardue**
(Kerrville)



Your Officers 2009-2010

President

Edna Platte

platte@ktc.com

Vice President-Programs

Mike Mecke

mmecke@stx.rr.com

Vice President-Outreach

Diane McMahon

jmcmahon@stx.rr.com

Secretary

Marilyn Butcher

marilynb@hctc.net

Treasurer

Trish Stone

trishnbill@hctc.net

Director of Communications

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



THANK YOU KPUB!

For its 15th consecutive year, the Kerrville Public Utility Board (KPUB) on April 17th participated in the national Tree Power program, promoted by the American Public Power Association. This year another 2,000 trees were given out to KPUB customers — hardy, drought-resistant native varieties perfect for the Texas Hill Country!

Since March 1995, an astounding 32,860 trees have been given to KPUB customers!

This year's trees were bigger and better than ever (some were over 6' tall!) and included Bur Oak, Shumard Red Oak, and the Mexican White Oak. Planted in the correct location, these trees will be an energy conservation tool for years to come. Not only do these trees provide much-needed shade during our hot Texas summers, but



they also serve as natural air filters, removing dust and greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, and then replacing those gases with life-giving oxygen.



This year, KPUB also collected canned goods at the tree giveaway, and donated them to the Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) on Clay St.



The Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas SALUTES YOU, KPUB!

for your promotion of Native Texas Plants and for your many other positive contributions to the Texas Hill Country.

Did You Know...?

Henry David Thoreau from Walden Pond fame found the sun-loving summer annual that we call portulaca (*portulaca grandiflora*) growing in a cornfield, boiled it and had it for dinner, claiming it was satisfactory.



SIGNS OF SPRING abound at Alltex Nursery



FOCUS ON NATIVES: **Tube Tongue**

A monthly feature submitted by **Barbara Lowenthal**



Photograph by Sandra Magee

Common Name: Tube-tongue

Scientific Name: *Siphonoglossa pilosella* (*Justicia pilosella*)

Type: Forb

Height: 2-5 inches usually, may grow to 12 inches in very favorable conditions.

Bloom Period: April to October

Longevity: Perennial

Growth habit: Low, mounding, colonizes.

Growing conditions: Sun, dappled shade. Found in prairies, grasslands, sandy soils and along streambanks.

Leaves: Linear to lanceolate, 2 ½ to 4 inches long.

Flowers: Tubular, lavender-pink, tube is white.

Deer resistant: Somewhat

Availability: local nurseries that carry native plants

Remarks: This low growing, versatile plant is excellent as a border in a native plant garden. It also does well in a hanging basket. It is the larval plant for the Texan Crescent-spot butterfly. Needs some supplemental watering in drought periods.

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.

There is still time to enter the Spring 2010 KERR COUNTY WATER SAVER LANDSCAPE CONTEST

The contest has three goals:

- ◆ To recognize and reward individuals for their time, trouble and expense creating a residential landscape that uses less water.
- ◆ To raise awareness among community members that water is a fragile resource and conservation is important.
- ◆ To demonstrate that landscapes requiring less water can be more than cactus and rock gardens.

Contest dates:

- ◆ Entries accepted beginning April 12, 2010.
- ◆ Deadline to enter is midnight May 10, 2010.
- ◆ Judging will be completed by June 1, 2010.
- ◆ Winners to be announced and prizes awarded on June 9, 2010.
- ◆ Free public tours of the winning landscapes on June 12, 2010 from 9 AM to 1 PM,

For more info, rules and entry form, go to <http://www.hgcd.org/landscape.html> or call 896-4110 and ask to receive the landscape contest entry form by mail. You will be asked to submit a completed Contest Entry Form with three (3) photos of the front landscape.



NPSOT member Sharon Walling's beautiful and water-saving landscape took first place in last year's contest.



Indiangrass seed heads mature between Sept. and November and make a stunning fall accent.

All about ... *Indiangrass*

Article submitted by Native American Seed, Junction, Texas

It is time to start thinking about warm season grasses. Whether you have pots, square feet, acres, or sections, your property should be evaluated seasonally to decide what should be improved and if more Native plants could be added to create a more diversified environment. Just as humans like a varied diet, so does the wildlife we hope to attract. By adding diversity, you can make sure that food and habitat are available year-round, not just in the spring or fall. Each year, as new native species are added, the invitation is issued for more wildlife to visit your property.

Indiangrass, *Sorghastrum nutans*, is a perennial bunch grass that provides both cover and food for wildlife, and a valuable range indicator. It is a decreaser, meaning that with heavy grazing pressure it will decline. Only the best managed rangelands have significant stands of this nutritious grass. Indiangrass along with Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem and Switchgrass

(Continued on page 6)

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, April 24th, Kerr County Market Days at Kerr County Courthouse, downtown Kerrville 9 am-4pm

More than 85 vendors with a large variety of handcrafted products, art work, plants and produce. Admission is free.

Saturday, April 24th, Medina Rose Garden Club Plant Sale, Community Center on Main St. Medina 8am-2pm

Native plants, shrubs, trees, flowers, herbs, tomatoes, peppers, birdhouses and garden art will be for sale. Free.

Monday, April 26th, 7 pm — Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists Monthly Meeting

Ryan Bass, Boerne's Watershed Planning Coordinator for the Upper Cibolo Creek Watershed, will speak. This meeting is free and open to the public. Meeting to be held at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's lecture hall. UGRA is located at 125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville.

Tuesday, April 27th, 7 pm Fredericksburg NPSOT Monthly Meeting

Gillespie County Historical Soc. Bldg., 312 W. San Antonio St., Fredericksburg. Larry Fagarason will discuss "Native Texas Cacti." Visitors welcome. Free.

Tuesday, May 4th, THIS CHAPTER'S Monthly Meeting. Field Trip to Fredericksburg; see page 1.

Friday, May 7th, 6-7:30 pm The "Western Wine Share" at Riverside Nature Center, Kerrville.

Bring a bottle of wine and a wine glass. Mingle and sample the wines as you stroll the granite paths to the several tasting stations among the trees, flowers, and other plants. Bonus: Meet James Krueger and his partner, Amy Soucy, as they provide a taste of the music they will perform live on Saturday the 8th. Free.

Saturday, May 8th, 7 pm "Live Nature Themed Music & Song by Amy Soucy and James Krueger" at RNC.

Admission \$10. See [poster](#) for details & photos.

ADVANCE NOTICE ABOUT OUR JUNE MEETING:

Due to a conflict with our June speaker's schedule, we have moved our monthly meeting for JUNE ONLY to the SECOND Tuesday of the month, June 8th at 7pm. Lotus McElfish, of Spring Branch, TX, botanical artist and aromatherapist, will speak. There will be more info in next month's newsletter.

Indiangrass ... (continued from page 5)



Only the best managed rangelands have significant stands of this nutritious grass.

make up the four major grasses once found in the Tall Grass Prairies that covered the central United States. Indiangrass will grow in a variety of soils, including sandy and gravelly disturbed sites but thrives best in rich bottomland areas with adequate moisture ranging from Canada to Mexico. It will survive periodic flooding but not prolonged saturation and thrives after being burned. The active growing period for this warm season grass starts in mid-spring, end of March to early May here in Texas. All warm season grasses like for the soil temperatures to be above 50 degrees Fahrenheit before germinating. It also makes a wonderful accent or ornamental grass for home landscaping. The clump will grow to about 1 ft in diameter and the blue green foliage remains about 3-4 ft until the fall when seed heads will shoot up. The plume-like seed heads have a metallic golden sheen sometimes turning a bronze color. These beautiful seed heads mature between September and November and make a stunning fall accent. This fall, let the seed heads of Indiangrass spread across Texas from potted patio containers to the western ranges.



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

