



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*

September 2010

Website: www.npsot.org/kerrville

A new season begins!

Next meeting:

Tuesday, September 7th at Riverside Nature Center

(come see the new fence that now keeps the deer out!)

**Our speaker this month is Jan Daniels,
President of the Cross Timbers (Weatherford) chapter of NPSOT
and Vice President of Advocacy for NPSOT at the State Level.
Jan has had a lifelong passion for native plants and will share with us the
importance of promoting and protecting our natives.**



This is an evening meeting!

6:30 Ice Cream Social

7:00 Meeting Begins

(Board members meet at 5:00)



*Our new Social Committee, led by Marilyn Butcher and Patsy Anne Newbolt,
will treat us to ice cream and cookies! Come early to join the fun
and make some new friends in the Native Plant Society!*

*Our new Vice President of Programs, Pam Lienhard, has some exciting
speakers lined up for the coming months.*

Thank you, Pam!

Message from the President:



Dear Native Plant Lovers:

Pam Lienhard is planning great programs for next year. I hope to see you at many of these programs

The Native Plant Society of Texas Annual Symposium will be held October 7 through October 10 in Denton, Texas. They have worked for years on this program and it should be excellent. I hope others will join me in Denton.

You will be receiving registration information soon or go to www.npsot.org. (More about this on page 3.)

Malcolm Matthews, head of Kerrville's Parks and Recreation Department, requested that they and NPSOT maintain an informal partnership to benefit the Library Garden. On August 5, Pam Lienhard and I were at the library garden with 3 city workers. They accomplished much of the heavy work that was needed in several hours. Dates were established in December and March for city employees to continue this work. I especially want to commend Pam Lienhard for wanting to lead and continue the library garden project.

I hope you have all had a good summer and I look forward to seeing you at our September meeting.

Sincerely,

Edna Platte

President
NPSOT, Kerrville Chapter

If you must mow ...

Mow high — especially in the extreme heat of late summer. Taller turf shades its own roots, lowering evaporation and requiring less water.

Welcome New Members!



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

- ◆ **Frank & Pat Nelson**
(Hunt)
- ◆ **Harry & Laura Portwood**
(Hunt)

Your Officers 2010-2011

President

Edna Platte
platte@ktc.com

Vice President-Programs

Pam Lienhard
plienhard@gmail.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.a@gmail.com

Director of Membership

Nina Wagner
wagnina@windstream.net

Committee Chairpeople:

Library Garden: Pam Lienhard
N.I.C.E.: Melinda Wasson & Gwynn Groggel-Jackson
Earth Day Plant Sale: Edna Platte, Priscilla Stanley
Social: Marilyn Butcher & Patsy Newbolt
Chapter Historian: Open
Texas Native Plant Week: Open
Event Information Table: Phil & Pat Hamman
Webmaster: Raúl Peña

Annual NPSOT Symposium in Denton

Edna would love for you to join her at this year's impressive show!



October 7-10 at Texas Woman's University in Denton.

“Save Texas One Landscape at a Time: Our Native Plants Light the Future”

We invite you to join us in Denton and help us to Help Texas!

We will see YOU in October — and please bring a friend!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS YEAR'S SYMPOSIUM:

- ◆ Fabulous speakers (see below)
- ◆ Field Trips to area points of interest
- ◆ Photo Contest
- ◆ T-shirt exchange
- ◆ Native Plant chorus
- ◆ Native Plant dried flower arrangements

[Click here for more information.](#)

PLEASE DONATE TO THE SILENT AUCTION

Every chapter and all individuals are encouraged to donate. Most anything will do. In keeping with the “How-To-Do-It” theme this year, please consider donating items that specifically promote sustainable living. These could be books on organic gardening, recycling, green living or the like; favorite “green wares” used at home or work such as gardening items, personal care products that are plant based, or items made of recycled materials such as note cards, tote bags, jewelry, etc. Jellies, jams and wine have always been popular items (and the glass jars are recyclable).

Symposium 2010 Keynote Speakers

DAVID BAMBERGER. Known to many of us, David Bamberger has worked tirelessly to restore what he calls “the sorriest piece of land in Blanco County” to the model of land stewardship that it is today. When he began his work in 1969 at Selah-Bamberger Ranch Preserve, he was ridiculed. Today, he is the father of a movement in Texas which has transformed literally millions of acres and become one of the finest models of land conservation.

JILL NOKES. Jill is a landscape designer and author living in Austin, Texas. Her first book, *How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest*, records the knowledge of several generations of plant experts and growers. Some consider it a classic reference text that has been influential in increasing awareness of the value of native plants in both vernacular and built landscapes.

DOUG TALLAMY. Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, is one of the most outstanding scientific voices in speaking to the interaction of native plants with insects in the ecological food chain. He is the author of *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*. Not only is Dr. Tallamy a great, personable speaker, he is a voice of national prominence.

N.I.C.E. Program

(Natives Instead of Common Exotics)

Plant of the Season — Fall 2010

Gregg's Blue Mistflower

(*Conoclinium greggii*, formerly *Eupatorium greggii*)

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

Gregg's Blue Mistflower is a wonderful perennial plant that provides a one- to two-foot tall covering for the ground — and spreads throughout the years. It is easy to grow, attracts butterflies and bees, and produces abundant blue flowers from July to October. Use this plant in place of impatiens, petunias or begonias.

Gregg's Blue Mistflower adapts to most soil types, although it prefers a moist, shady site. After getting the plant established, it should only need water during periods of drought and then only monthly. Unfortunately, it is not deer resistant.



Please visit the following N.I.C.E. nurseries 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.*

Kerrville

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

Fredericksburg

- ◆ Dodds Family Tree Nursery – 515 W. Main
- ◆ Friendly Natives Nursery – 1107 N. Llano St.
- ◆ Woerner Feed & Garden – 305 S. Lincoln St.

All about ... *Thunder Turf*

a new Native short grass turf mix from Native American Seed

Article submitted by Znobia Wootan, Native American Seed, Junction, Texas

The interest in establishing Native short grass lawns is booming. After last year's devastating drought, many homeowners are looking for a low-maintenance lawn that can survive water restrictions. Thunder Turf will not only **survive** but will **thrive** with as little as 5-12 inches of rainfall a year — and it doesn't require mowing, fertilizing, watering or chemicals for diseases and pests. Thunder Turf contains Buffalograss, Blue Grama and Curly Mesquite. Why have a mix of seeds? Studies done by LBJ Wildflower Center have shown that a diversity of grasses holds up better to seasonal differences in temperatures, rainfall, and traffic patterns. The total height of this amazing native short grass mix would be from 4-10 inches tall, depending on rainfall. Soil type really doesn't matter as long as you have at least some for the seeds to germinate in. I've seen Buffalograss and Blue Grama growing in little pockets of soil on limestone hills. Of course that is a long way from lawn quality, but it is a testament to their hardy natures. The Blue Grama is a bunch grass and will spread by seed, while the Buffalograss and the Curly Mesquite spread by runners and by seed. A solid turf-like mat is formed by the runners of the Buffalograss, and the Curly Mesquite interweaves around the Blue Grama until you can't tell which grass is which, unless you get down on your hands and knees. One way to tell them apart without crawling around on all fours is to wait until there is a rain — then identification is fairly easy because they will have very different seedheads.



A native lawn saves time, money, water, and the environment.

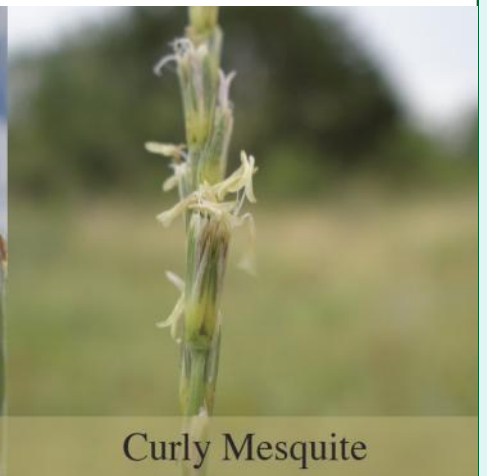
(Continued on page 6)



Buffalograss



Blue Grama



Curly Mesquite

The easiest way to identify these three native short-grasses is wait until they produce seedheads.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, August 23, 6:30-8:30 pm — Monthly Meeting, Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists.

[Click here for details.](#)

Saturday, August 28, Kerr County Market Days at Kerr County Courthouse, downtown Kerrville — 9 am-3pm.

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

**Tuesday, August 31, 7 pm
Fredericksburg NPSOT Monthly Meeting**

Gillespie County Historical Soc. Bldg. at 312 W. San Antonio, Fredericksburg. Brian and Shirley Loflin will present "Cacti of Texas." Visitors welcome. [Click here for details.](#)

Tuesday, September 7 — THIS CHAPTER'S Monthly Mtg. Ice Cream Social at 6:30 followed by meeting at 7.

Saturday, September 11 — Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT hosts its 5th annual Wildscapes Workshop.

[Click here for details.](#)

September 15, 2010 — 4:30-6:30 pm

Riverside Nature Center Annual Meeting and Member/Volunteer Appreciation Celebration. [Click here for details.](#)

October 2nd "Down by the Riverside" Fall Festival and Native Plant Sale 8 am – 3 pm at Riverside Nature Ctr.

The annual fall event featuring adult and children's activities and a huge native plant sale, co-sponsored by the Riverside Nature Center and the Hill Country Texas Master Naturalists. Join RNC and enjoy first pick of the plants at the members only presale. Kids, make your bat costume and participate in the Bat Parade. You can use your costume again on Halloween. We will have speakers and a free butterfly tent. Join the fun. Admission is FREE.

October 7-10 Annual NPSOT Symposium in Denton.

See pg. 3 and [click here for more information.](#)

TREES

by Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)

(submitted by Mike Mecke)

I THINK that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by people like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Thunder Turf...

(Continued from page 5)

Make the switch to a Native lawn and you won't have to worry about getting it mowed, watered or figuring out what is making it turn brown. Better yet — you won't have that guilty feeling when you forget to turn the hose off, or when applying chemicals that are only supposed to kill the targeted pest or disease us, but come with a picture of a skull and crossed bones on the label.

**A native lawn saves time, money,
water, and the environment.**



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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,
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 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

