



THE TEXAS SAGE

Year 2001 Officers and Committee Chairs

President

Helena van Heiningen
817.244.5338
hvanhein@aol.com

Vice-President and Program Chairperson

Gailon Hardin
817.457.4703
ghardin@flash.net

Treasurer

Alan Klein
817.784.8928
alanwkl@home.com

Secretary

Jeanie Browning
817.478.2006

Historian

Ev Woodrey
817.295.4683
ewoodrey@prodigy.net

Refreshment Chairperson

Dagmar Higgins
817.496.0543

Education Chairperson

Sharon Wood
940.872.2063
wood.sorj@att.net

Welcome Chairperson

Carolyn Kohls
817.481.4618
ckohls@prodigy.net

Webmaster

Michele May
817.924.0156
inmmay@fastlane.net

Reporter From the Field

Jeff Quayle
817.738.1322
prairielover@bigfoot.com

Plant Tour 2001 Chairpersons

Stephen Haydon and Janan Rabiah
817.924.3378
sphjr1@ix.netcom.com

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Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 4

April 2001

President's Corner . . .

Dear Members:

Those members and guests who attended the April meeting enjoyed a bounty of raffle items and information.

Many of you know I am still climbing up the learning curve so when I found out that Suzanne Tuttle, a former Chapter President, was speaking on Plant Propagation, I was filled with great excitement. Suzanne is a wealth of knowledge and is able to share that knowledge with each and every one of us with such ease.

We first learned about propagation by **SEED** including the challenge of finding the seed when it is ready to harvest (mark the plant early for later identification). Remember to **follow nature** and harvest when the seeds naturally mature. Once you have retrieved the seed, store them in a paper bag and when they are dry remember to **follow nature** and store them in a cool place (at the bottom of the fridge is a great place). We also learned various techniques to improve our success rate and were encouraged to **follow nature's** lead. I am sensing a theme here...**Follow Nature**.

Next Suzanne talked about propagation by **VEGETATIVE** methods, perhaps the most challenging. We learned about three methods: cuttings, division of bulbs and corms and layering. She showed us how a simple take-out container could be used as a mini-greenhouse. There is so much to be shared and learned during group meetings and discussions. For instance a Ziploc bag was offered as another alternative mini-greenhouse method. I hope everyone was encouraged to try the techniques suggested by Suzanne and bring your extra successes to the plant exchange in November.

Some of the questions following the presentation resulted in recommended good practices:

- Only cover the seed with soil, equaling but not exceeding, the diameter of the seed

- Planting mixture recommendation: 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 vermiculite, 1/3 perlite or a Rabbit Hill blend
- Transplant after first set of real leaves
- Don't take a cutting from a reproductive part of the plant

If this information intrigues you, don't miss the June meeting co-sponsored by the North Central and the Dallas NPSOT Chapters where Jill Nokes will discuss "A Review of the Native Plant Movement: Looking Back Over 20 Years: What Have We Learned?" Her new book, How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest, will be available for purchase and autographing.

The raffle was enjoyed by one and all because there was nearly "something for everyone". Stephen Haydon's featured Plant of the Month was Yaupon Holly. Jenco Nursery provided a beautiful specimen which was won by Carolyn Kohls. Be sure to read about this month's featured Plant of the Month in Stephen's column and come ready to take a chance on taking home your very own specimen. I counted almost 25 items including a wide range of native plants, note cards, herbs, books and a lovely tray. The choices were considerable so be prepared next month and scope out the bounty during the break and be ready to choose when it is your turn. Don't forget to bring a raffle item if you won and don't forget to bring cash, checks, credit cards or IOU's to purchase your raffle ticket.

Please be aware that in Montague County the roadside mowing dates have been moved forward several weeks. The NPSOT state office is posting the official TxDOT Handbook mowing policy on the web site, www.npsot.org, for reference purposes. Please check with your county to be sure they are complying with the regulations. Contact Bill Lindemann (wljhl@ktc.com) and myself if further assistance is required.

Helena van Heiningen

Second Texas Prairies and Savannahs Conference

The Second Annual Texas Prairies and Savannahs Conference will be held on June 1-3, 2001. The theme will be "Making a Living on Texas Native Grasslands."

June 1 workshops at Cedar Hill immediately south of Dallas in the Cedar Hill Independent School District Administration Building. Workshops are offered on identification of prairie grasses, and on reconstructing a prairie starting from scratch. We are proud to offer in partnership with the Cedar Hill State Park a Service Project on "Hands-on Prairie Restoration" restoring an overgrown prairie site at the park. This Service Project meets at Cedar Hill State Park rather than the ISD Building.

The Friday evening social event at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center offers food and features presentation by Bruce Williams on their breeding programs related to prairie species. Cash bar.

June 2 conference presentations are in Glen Rose at the Somervell County Expo Center's Exposition Hall. Presentations on *successful landowner projects for North Texas, Rolling Plains, and Central and South Texas *info on how-to find markets for prairie plant products such as *Echinacea* and seed hay *quail management *prairie dog management *wildlife tax valuation *control of aggressive plants and *how to find native seeds for restoration projects.

Generous lunch and break times allow for plenty of social interaction. Native Prairies Association Annual Members Meeting during lunch. The Saturday evening entertainment is a highly regarded performance of *Living Texas History* with barbeque dinner and cash bar at Fossil Rim.

On June 3 we offer through Holistic Resource Management of Texas a **special all-day workshop** on Holistic Resource Mgt. for landowners at the Somervell Expo Center. Usually these workshops are much longer, so this is your opportunity to get a solid introduction to the material in one day.

Also on June 3 you may take your choice of three morning **Grand Prairie field trips**: Quail Ridge Ranch, Stella Rowan Prairie, or a Grand Prairie Tour by Baylor University's Dr. Joe Velderman, Geology Dept.

Co-sponsors to date: Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT), Cedar Hill State Park, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Master Naturalists Program, Plateau Integrated Land & Wildlife, Quail Unlimited, Texas Chapter of Society for Ecological Restoration, Texas Section of Society for Range Management, American Farmland Trust, and Bexar Audubon Society.

Questions? Call John Pickett at 254-897-3646 or JDPICK@itexas.net or visit the Native Prairies Association of Texas website at <http://www.texasprairie.org>.

Demo Garden News

Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse

On our last workday we pulled practically every weed we could get our hands on. Come join us on Saturday, May 12 at 8 AM to noon to see if there are any left! We will also be trimming and generally sprucing up the garden. Contact Helena van Heiningen 817.244.5338 for additional information.

Hulen Library

We will meet at the garden for grooming and maintenance work on the last Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM through April. Summer dates are the last Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., other days as needed. Contact Ev Woodrey at 817.295.4683 for additional information.

Veterans Park Wildscape

There will be a workday on Saturday, May 5 from 9:00-NOON. If you would like more information, contact Molly Hollar at 817.860.5580.

What's Happening . . .

Thursday, May 3

7:00 PM

Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

NPSOT North Central Chapter Meeting. This month's program will be Charlene Rowell speaking about "Natives at the Heard Museum". Contact Helena van Heiningen, President, at 817.244.5338 for further information.

Saturday, May 5

9:00 AM - NOON

Veterans Park Wildscape, Arlington

Volunteer Workday at the Veterans Park Wildscape. If you would like more information, contact Molly Hollar at 817.860.5580. The Wildscape is located at the intersection of Arkansas Lane and Spanish Trail. Meet in the Southeast corner of the park.

Saturday, May 12

8:00 AM - NOON

Granbury Road Demonstration Garden

Workday at the Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse demonstration garden. Bring clippers and tools to weed and trim. Contact Helena van Heiningen at 817.244.5338 for further information.

Thursday, May 17

7:00 PM

Benbrook

The monthly NPSOT North Central Chapter Board Meeting will be rescheduled due to a conflict. Call Helena at 817-244-5338 for the new date. (As a reminder, the Monthly Board Meetings are open to all members on the third Thursday of each month.)

Saturday, May 19

7:00 AM - NOON

Tarrant Community College, South Campus

The Master Gardeners are planning a planting day for a xeriscape garden to be located at the Resource Connection on TCC's south campus. The Resource Connection is located north of highway 20 off Campus Drive. Turn north on Campus Drive, go past TCC and Ford dealership. Turn west or left onto Raymond Barber Drive. The planting site is at the gates to Resource Connection. (The Resource Connection is the old state school, purchased by the county to provide offices for service agencies.) Here's an excellent opportunity to learn about planting such a garden. For more information contact the Tarrant County Agricultural Extension office at 817.884.1945.

Wednesday, May 30-Saturday, June 2

Stephen F. Austin State University

Stephen F. Austin State University is proud to host the first-ever Cullowhee's Lone Star Regional Plant Conference. Come hear George Diggs speak on "Flora of North Central Texas", Jill Nokes on "Landscaping with Natives", Geyeta Ajilvsgi on "Butterfly Gardening", John Snowden on "Prairie Beauty with Native Grasses" and many, many more. For a detailed description of this exciting and educational event contact Matt Welch at 936-468-4104 (mwelch@sfasu.edu) or visit the conference website at <http://www.sfasu.edu/ag/arboretum/Events.html>.

Friday, June 1-Sunday June 3

Native Prairies Association of Texas

The Second Annual Texas Prairies and Savannahs Conference will be held on June 1-3, 2001. The theme will be "Making a Living on Texas Native Grasslands." For more information, call John Pickett at 254-897-3646 or JDPICK@itexas.net or visit the Native Prairies Association of Texas website at <http://www.texasprairie.org>.

Saturday June 30

10:00 AM

Texas Discovery Gardens, Fair Park

This meeting will be co-sponsored by the North Central and the Dallas NPSOT Chapters and will feature Jill Nokes on "A Review of the Native Plant Movement: Looking Back Over 20 Years: What Have We Learned?" The speaker writes that the program will "discuss how our understanding and appreciation of native plants in landscape use has evolved over the past decades as environmental awareness itself has increased. When locally indigenous plant communities are valued and protected, success and survival are more easily achieved, even by the novice gardener. We will examine ways Mother Nature can guide your personal garden design."

Plant of the Month Desert Willow

Latin Name: *Chilopsis linearis*

Landscape Zone: 1 - 7

Size: 10 – 25 feet

Leaves: Deciduous

Flowers: Summer Flowering, clusters of orchid like blossoms, 3 inches long, white to burgundy

Fruit: Four to twelve inch seedpods

Soil: Adaptable, well drained

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Water: Drought tolerant



The Desert Willow is not a Willow at all. It takes its name from its long narrow willow like foliage. This fast growing plant requires well-drained conditions. The Desert Willow has a light airy look. This plant grows to be a large shrub with many branches, making it suitable for background planting or as a specimen plant. It can be trained into a small tree with an upright shape but more naturally forms a bush. The clusters of orchid like blooms are born at the ends of the branches all summer long. The flowers of the native species are generally a pinkish purplish color but horticulturists have developed cultivars ranging from purple to pink, burgundy and white. Since flowers are born on new wood pruning encourages blooming.

Stephen P. Haydon

Don't forget, we hope to have the "plant of the month" as one of the raffle prizes at each month's meeting.

Report from the State NPSOT Meeting

April 21, 2001

The Dian Graves Owen Foundation has granted a request for \$3,000 to be used to fund chapter demonstration gardens in 2002. This is a matching fund grant and the state is matching the grant. The chapters can begin submitting requests for up to \$1,000 for installation of a new garden; up to \$500 for maintenance of an existing garden, materials only. A form to be filled out by the chapter requesting funds is being developed.

Requests for support and/or sponsorship have been received from the Native Prairies Assn. Of Texas, the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration and The Useful Wild Plants, Inc. The decision to lend support to these entities was unanimous.

A budget proposal for the Annual Meeting in October ranged from \$12,375 to \$21,600 depending on the num-

ber of applicants. The estimated cost per person will be \$75. The facility is the Omni South Park Hotel. Rooms will be \$89 per night, up to 4 persons. Facilities will be no cost if our group uses a total of 240 nights for the weekend. It is suggested reservations be submitted early. This is a very good deal for rooms in Austin.

The state is looking for artists to do some artwork for the T-shirts for annual meeting ASAP.

The state website is going to publish TxDOT HANDBOOK REGULATIONS concerning roadside mowing, a list of slides available, membership application forms and labels for newsletters.

The newsletter staff is looking for articles on "People Who Make a Difference" in the area of Native Plants. Also any other well written article appropriate for the newsletter.

Prairie Documentary to Air Soon!

PBS has produced a wonderful four-part special on the vanishing tallgrass prairie ecosystem. It premiered on Midwest public stations Friday, April 20th. Unfortunately our local station, KERA 13, had no plans to air it in the immediate future (through May). Suzanne Tuttle of the Fort Worth Nature Center (a big prairie fan!) and no doubt countless others issued a plea to contact the local station and request that they air the documentary. It worked!

Suzanne writes:

Several of you have sent me messages or called to let me know that, thanks to our requests, "The Last Stand of the Tallgrass Prairie" will be broadcast on **PBS Channel 2 (KDTN)** sometime in June.

THANK YOU to everybody who contacted KERA!!! We should all feel very empowered!!!

Suzanne

Membership List Mailing

You should have received in this newsletter a copy of the NPSOT North Central chapter membership list. If somehow you didn't receive it please contact Janan or Vickie to request a copy. Also, if you have corrections or additions, don't hesitate to call your newsletter/membership list editors! Janan at 817.924.3378 sphjr1@ix.netcom.com or Vickie at 817.361.0455 victoriavery@att.net.

Native Plant Society of Texas
 North Central Chapter
 Newsletter Editor
 3316 West Biddison
 Fort Worth, TX 76109

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 3 at 7PM
 at the Fort Worth Botanic
 Gardens

Join the Native Plant Society of Texas!

As a member of the state organization, you will receive an annual subscription to the *NPSOT News*, and you will be invited to attend the NPSOT Annual Symposium.

Memberships:	___ Individual	\$20
	___ Family	\$25
Check here if this is a	___ Student	\$15
membership renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	___ Sr. Citizen	\$15

To receive a one-year subscription to the North Central Chapter newsletter, *The Texas Sage*, please enclose an additional \$15. Send your check, payable to NPSOT, and updated contact information to:

Alan Klein
 5745 Chelmsford Trail
 Arlington, TX 76018

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

The Texas Sage

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 either of the newsletter editors.

The deadline for submitting articles for inclusion in next month's newsletter is the 10th of every month.

Janan Rabiah, Co-Editor
The Texas Sage
 3316 West Biddison
 Ft. Worth, TX 76109
 817.924.3378
sphjr1@ix.netcom.com

Vickie Neal, Co-Editor
The Texas Sage
 5215 Cameron Creek Cir
 Apt 129
 Fort Worth, TX 76132
 817.361.0455
victoriavery@att.net

The Texas Sage is printed on recycled paper.