

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

February 2003

From the Prez

Spring Fever

It's February and it will be several more weeks before we are past the danger of frost. Spring doesn't officially arrive until March 21st, but as I write this, it's almost 70 degrees. The day is delightfully pleasant, fresh and damp after last night's rain.

As I wandered about this morning with my little companion Myska, I couldn't escape catching spring fever. A brilliant red cardinal flashed by as we checked the **bluebonnet** patch and a bluejay announced his presence as we examined a mushroom growing from an old, wet, gray stump. As we meandered around we marveled at the beauty in the tiny intricate fern-like leaves of **pin clover**. Sprinkled in amid their little rosettes of green leaves were the occasional tiny red ones not unlike small jewels carelessly tossed on the ground. The symptoms of spring fever become more evident each time we spotted the fat green leaves of **winecups** or the lacy gray-green leaves of **corydalis** or the miniature leaves of **toadflax** growing in tight little bunches like they had just bubbled up from the earth.

Everywhere we turned there was something to catch our eye. The elms were decorated with inconspicuous little flowers that made their branches look like they were covered with rosy brown fuzz. Surely spring couldn't be far away. As chickadees

chattered and Myska dashed after a squirrel she couldn't catch, my imagination filled my head with colorful visions of spring wildflowers - **bluebonnets, winecups, showy primrose, corydalis, phlox, toadflax** and others.

Already delicate little **bluets** and dainty wild **field pansies** dotted our path with tiny blossoms. I knew I had spring fever. Anyone susceptible to that seasonal ailment would have had little chance of escaping it on such a day. Actually, it's not such a bad thing. It happens every year whenever there is a wonderfully warm sunny day wedged in between cold wintery ones. But waiting for spring can try one's patience. My first twinge of spring fever occurred in January when an unusually warm day brought out a cloudless yellow sulfur to drift about. However, the butterfly's venture was short, for the warm day was fleeting. Today's spring-like weather is also fleeting. The forecast calls for freezing temperatures by tomorrow night.

I'll have to be patient waiting for spring. Until it's really here and the world turns green, I'll have to be content to admire the patterns made by leafless trees silhouetted against a winter sky. I'll continue to look for last year's bird nests, now visible in bare branches, look for wildflower rosettes and appreciate **winecup** leaves edged with winter's frost.

— Marilyn Blanton

Nonindigenous, Invasive Aquatic Plants:

What's the Problem? What's the Solution?

How You Can Help

Why do nonindigenous, invasive aquatic plants cause problems? How were they held in check in their native habitat? What makes our waterways so inviting? Why are they so successful? Why do they cause problems? Why can't we control them before they become a problem? Once established, how are they controlled? What is the best defense?

Our speakers will be **Dian H. Smith** and **Joe R. Snow** from the University of North Texas/ Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility. They will address these questions and discuss ways the Corps of Engineers aquatic plant researchers use native plants as part of the solution to these complex ecological problems in our public waters. They will discuss other ways native aquatic plants are used to create or enhance wildlife habitat, control erosion along streambanks, and filter pollutants and improve water quality in a variety of constructed wetland situations. They will also offer examples of how you can help our aquatic habitats by getting involved in restoration projects.

Dian Smith and Joe Snow are aquatic plant research scientists in the Institute of Applied Science at the University of North Texas and are stationed, through interagency agreement, at Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility. Dian has earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Biology and is currently working on her Ph.D. in Environmental Science at the University of North Texas.

Joe has earned a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Environmental Science at the University of North Texas. Their research focuses on the biology and ecology of aquatic plants and is directed toward the development of ecological approaches for management of problem exotic species.

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Thur, Feb 27th, 7 p.m. _ Trinity Forks Chapter meeting: "*Nonindigenous, Invasive Aquatic Plants*" by **Dian Smith** and **Joe Snow**. UNT EESAT Bldg. Room 125. _

Sat, Mar 1st, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. _ Native Plant Society Of Texas, Spring Symposium 2003, "*Historic Flora of Texas*." At the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center; Austin, Texas. _

Sat, Mar 8th, 9am–3pm _ Trinity Forks Chapter Annual Plant Sale at the Denton Redbud Days Festival. At Denton Civic Center. _

Thurs, Mar 27th, 7 p.m. _ Trinity Forks Chapter Meeting: "*A Botanist's Eye: Redouté and the Art of Floral Illustration*" by **Barney Lipscomb**, Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany and co-author, Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas; Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth. *NOTE:* The Redoute Exhibition will be showing through March 2nd at the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth. It is free and open to the public. Don't miss it! For more information prior to this program, please go to the web site: http://www.kimbellart.org/exhibitions/exh_file.cfm?id=76. UNT EESAT Building, Room 125. _

Sat, April 5th, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm _ Great American Clean-Up. At Civic Center pool parking lot. Free lunch for volunteers served at noon in Civic Center Park. _

Thurs, April 24th, 7:00 pm _ Trinity Forks Chapter Meeting at UNT EESAT Building, Room 125. _

Thurs, May 22nd, 7:00 pm _ Trinity Forks Chapter Meeting at UNT EESAT Building, Room 125. _

Do you have news or events to share? Send it to **Cynthia Maguire** at c.maguire@charter.net. or call her at 940/594-6555.

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PLANT SALE COMING!!!

Our annual plant sale at the Redbud Days Festival on **March 8, 2003** is fast approaching! Everyone's support and participation is needed. We need donated plants to sell and members to help set up, work at the sale and clean up. Also, remember to tell your friends and neighbors where they can get native plants at a great price for spring planting. Please— join in the fun and excitement and help make this year's plant sale a great success!

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Preview of March Program. . .

A Botanist's Eye looks at the magnificent history and evolution of art and botanical science from the first century AND through the life of Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759-1840), one of the greatest botanical illustrators and flower painters of all time.

The 18th century has been justifiably called the golden age of botany and by all rights it was the golden age of botanical illustration. It was a century of plant classification, of systematic plant hunting around the world, of professionalism and, within a degree, of experiment. This is the age of Pierre-Joseph Redouté, for he was at his prime and excelled as a botanical artist during the golden age of botany. The combined botanical expertise with beautiful composition made his paintings admired by artists and valued by scientists. Out of the hundreds of plants Redouté painted, many are found in Texas gardens or are found wild or naturalized in Texas.

Redouté's most important creative period began in the late 1700s, when he became the chief botanical artist and painter for Napoleon's first wife, Joséphine. Empress Joséphine was determined to fill her Parisian gardens with the rarest plants that the Old and New Worlds could furnish. With distinguished botanists on staff and Redouté as artist, she poured out untold sums in the purchase and cultivation of choice flowers and in the publication of magnificent folios to record them for posterity.

With current estimates of a staggering 100,000 + species still to find, 21st century plant hunters are searching the forests, deserts, prairies, mountains, everywhere, for much the same reasons as early naturalists did centuries ago. Science calls for art to help document its researches. The result is the continuation of a long, beneficial collaboration between art and science.

This March 27 program will be presented in a visually exciting lecture style format that resonates with history, art and science. It is sure to delight art lovers, teachers, students, gardeners, horticulturists, florists, botanists, history buffs, and anyone with a curiosity in art and science.

– **Barney Lipscomb**
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New Officers/Appointees

The following list is included once again for your convenience.

President	Marilyn Blanton 940-464-7775 marilyn@postoakplace.com
Vice President Programs and Education	Dorothy Thetford 940-382-9344 dthetford@mymailstation.com
Secretary	Beth Clark 940-382-0588 elizabeth.clark26@verizon.net
Treasurer	Caroline Polliard 940-382-0957
Membership	Garrett Brown 940-482-7950 garrett.brown@att.net
Historian	Kathy Scott 940-321-2412 txksgscott@hotmail.com
Ways and Means	Garrett Brown 940-482-7950 garrett.brown@att.net
Hospitality	Marilyn Martin 940-382-8014 marilyn_martin@hotmail.com
Field Trips	Mike Mizell 940-382-8551 mmizell@webtv.net
Publicity	Irene Hanson 972-539-9471 ICHanson@metlspan.com
Newsletter	Cynthia Maguire 940-594-6555 c.maguire@charter.net

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Directory Update. . . please mark your directory with a new email for Owen Yost: owenyost@advantexmail.net.

Native wildflowers in bloom now:

Bluets	<i>Hedyotis crassifolia</i>
Corydalis	<i>Corydalis aurea</i>
Cymopterus	<i>Cymopterus macrorhizus</i>
Puccoon	<i>Lithospermum incisum</i>
Field pansy	<i>Viola bicolor</i>

Now seen with Rosette leaves (first set of leaves that are almost flat to the ground and two-to-four inches in diameter) are:

Avens	<i>Geum canadense</i>
Baby blue-eyes	<i>Nemophila phacelioides</i>
Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium ensigerum</i>
Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.
Camphor daisy	<i>Machaeranthera phyllocephala</i>
Cut-leaf primrose	<i>Oenothera laciniata</i>
Diamond-point primrose	<i>Oenothera rhombipetala</i>
Evening primrose	<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>
Fall aster	<i>Aster texanus</i>
Golden groundsel	<i>Senecio obovatus</i>
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>
Gaura	<i>Stenosiphon linifolius</i>
Gulf-coast penstemon	<i>Penstemon tenuis</i>
Indian blanket	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>

Ladies tresses orchid	<i>Spiranthes cernua</i>
Lomatium	<i>L. foeniculaceum</i> subsp. <i>daucifolium</i>
Lyre-leaf sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>
Obedient plant (fall)	<i>Physostegia pulchella</i>
Prairie verbena	<i>Verbena bipinnatifida</i>
Phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>
Rain lily	<i>Cooperia pedunculata</i>
Spotted beebalm	<i>Monarda punctata</i>
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i>
Standing cypress	<i>Ipomopsis rubra</i>
Texas bluebonnet	<i>Lupinus texensis</i>
Texas thistle	<i>Cirsium texanum</i>
Toad-flax	<i>Nuttallanthus canadensis</i>
Tropical sage	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>
Vervain	<i>Verbena halei</i>
Wavy-leaf thistle	<i>Cirsium undulatum</i>
White prickly poppy	<i>Argemone albiflora</i> subsp. <i>texana</i>
Wild onion	<i>Allium</i> sp.
Wild red columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>
Wind-flower	<i>Anemone heterophylla</i>
Winecup	<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>
Woolly-white	<i>Hymenopappus scabiosaeus</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Yellow columbine	<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i>

– Compiled by **Marilyn Blanton**
and **Dorothy Thetford**

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Native Plant Society of Texas
Trinity Forks Chapter
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