

Trinity Forks Native Plant Press

The Newsletter of the Trinity Forks Chapter,
Native Plant Society of Texas

April 2005

From the Prez....

Awesome spring!

It really is too incredible for words—this amazing exhibition of life and the renewal of generations we see unfolding around us this time of year. I hope each of you has taken time out recently to enjoy some special time appreciating plants and the beauty they bring to our lives and our environment. I have and it has made me feel renewed, too. Whether it is wildflowers (more details on those in a moment) or trees in leaf and bud, or early growth on native grasses, observing the abundance of life on display around me has been good medicine for my soul.

As I write this column, I have just returned home from a trip to Junction to attend the NPSOT state board meeting on Saturday, April 16th. My husband, **Patrick**, went with me on this trip and we spent an extra night near Junction at **Native American Seed's** Cool River Cabin. With the deep green Llano river a few yards away on one side of the cabin, and the farm fields of **standing winecups** (*Callirhoe involucrata*), **Engelmann daisies** (*Engelmannia pinnatifida*), **scrambled eggs** (*Corydalis curvisiliqua*), **Texas sage** (*Salvia texana*) and more next to it on the other side, it really is a cool cabin! For those of you looking for a perfect wildflower weekend retreat, look no further. The cabin offers all the comforts you could ask and a fabulous place to enjoy your favorite wildflowers while you relax. Fair warning: there's no TV or phone! ☺ To my surprise, owner **Jan Neiman** told me it is only booked a few days each month. While there, we saw lots of birds, including a new (to us) species—the vermilion flycatcher. Brilliant! On the way home, we saw (also for the first time) large displays of **downy paintbrush** (*Castilleja sessiliflora*) along US 281 from Lampasas to Glen Rose. All I can say is, "WOW!"

When I got back home, it was time to work in my own garden. Thanks to the wonderful members of Trinity Forks who donated so generously to our plant sale, I am adding several new species to my garden this year. The list includes **dotted blue-eyed grass** (*Sisyrinchium* sp.), **chili pequin** (*Capsicum annuum*), **halberd-leaf hibiscus** (*Hibiscus laevis*), **buttercups** (*Ranunculus* sp.), **gayfeather** (*Liatris mucronata*), **snapdragon vine**

(*Maurandya antirrhiniflora*), **phlox** (*Phlox pilosa*), **purple horsemint** (*Monarda citriodora*) and **stemless evening primrose** (*Oenothera triloba*). I am especially grateful to whomever provided the *Sisyrinchium*—after requesting it for at least two years, I now have five!

Our plant sale this year was a great success. Thank you **Cathy Lustgarten** for organizing it—you did a super job!—and thanks to all the volunteers who brought plants, worked at the sale, or helped with any of the hundred details. Cathy's report is in this newsletter. Inside you will also find articles on **Cenizo**, **False garlic**, and **Winecups**; a recap of the March program on crystals in plants, current field trip information and more! And speaking of programs, this month is a must-see! Read below for the details and see you all on Thursday, April 28th!

Cynthia Maguire ☞



Our April Program

Get ready . . . get set . . . go (or should it be come?) see and hear *Big Bend National Park: A Naturalist's Dreamland*, presented by **Bill Lindemann**, a past president of NPSOT. Bill is currently writing a book on the Trans-Pecos region and has taken numerous photographs of the flora there, some of which he will share with us at 7:00 p.m. on **Thursday, April 28, 2005**. His program will both prepare and inspire you to go to the Fall Symposium. Don't miss it!

Speaking of the Symposium, have YOU seriously considered going? Please do! It promises to be a stellar experience (with literally thousands of stars visible in the night sky)! Give it some thought and make reservations SOON! Lodging will be hard to find by fall and the experts estimate that space considerations will limit participation this year to only about 200 persons. Make sure *your* place is reserved NOW! (You can always cancel later if need be.) For information on where to stay, go to www.npsot.org and click on "FALL SYMPOSIUM 2005." ☞

2005 Spring Plant Sale Report

What a grand day we all had, aided by balmy temperatures and blue skies! Hundreds of visitors to Keep Denton Beautiful's Redbud Festival made a steady stream through our booth from an hour before the official start at 10 a.m., right up until and beyond closing at 3 p.m. Many enjoyed lengthy conversations with our two dozen members who helped at the booth. I know we were able to educate a great many people and steer them in the right direction for their specific gardening needs. We signed up 6 new members! I trust someone will report separately on our first ever Kids Korner, but I can tell you there was a nearly non-stop swarm of kids and parents all day long in that part of our booth. Good going, you Kid Kultivators!

Also new this year was a Living Fence Post demonstration, as **Marshall Fox** stood for literally hours at a time holding down our canopy against relentless winds. *Thanks Marshall!* (Did anyone get a picture?) The winds topped 20 mph nearly all day long, but the booth was so full of people all the time, the wind only managed to blow over a few plants and make off with a few price tags. We had plenty of near-misses with hats, fliers, plastic trays, and even a member or two. And some of the shade plants began to droop after a day in the wind and sun, but all in all plants and people held up very well.

We sold over 600 plants donated by members, plus 64 plants on consignment from Painted Flower Farm. This netted us about 30% more after expenses, than our 2004 sale inside the Civic Center. This is the third year in a row that Painted Flower Farm provided plants for us to sell on consignment. Please show your appreciation by patronizing this Denton nursery that has gone the extra mile as a native plant source (see separate article in this newsletter).

At the end of the sale, we donated 50 plants for garden projects at **Sam Houston** and **Newton Rayzor Elementary Schools** in Denton, and **Rann Elementary** in Decatur, and for a native plant demonstration garden at the **Corps of Engineers** office in Lewisville. Remaining plants were taken by Painted Flower Farm and members **Jeremy Voss** and **Kathy Scott** to continue nourishing and propagating until our next sale.

A huge thank you goes out to our entire membership! It was your plant donations, equipment, supplies, energy, enthusiasm, and expertise both before April 9th and on the day of the sale that made it all possible – far too many to even begin to list here. All the workers especially appreciated the donuts and coffee brought by **Cynthia Maguire** and **Laurie Hammett**, and the sandwiches brought by **Kathy Saucier**. Y'all did real good!

Ways & Means Chair, *Cathy Lustgarten* ☞



Working with a Local Nursery

One of our missions in NPSOT is to encourage the use of native plants in landscapes. A common obstacle to this goal is that native plants desirable to gardeners are often nowhere to be found in retail nurseries. We in the Trinity Forks Chapter may have a unique opportunity to help tackle that problem. **Don Kenney** of **Painted Flower Farm** wants to become The Source to go to in our area for native plants. He is very eager to propagate desirable native plants from seed or cuttings to make available to the public.

Two years ago, Don tried to grow plants to order for us to sell at the Redbud Festival. Trouble was, the plants we asked him for were too scarce and he could not find viable seeds or parent plants from which to take cuttings. He has asked our members to try to provide startup material for him to continue his quest. Don is interested not only in providing specific plants for our spring plant sale, but also to eventually grow on a large scale and make available to his Painted Flower Farm retail customers.

Your board of directors will be exploring ways to develop a mutually beneficial relationship, and will try to come up with a practical list of plants to ask Don to grow. Then we will look to our members for the initial plant material. April and May is the ideal time to obtain softwood cuttings for propagation, so don't be surprised if, at our April 28 chapter meeting, you hear a plea for small bits and pieces of some of your favorite native plants. Anyone with suggestions or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Ways & Means Chair, *Cathy Lustgarten* ☞

972-306-1088 /drgoodrad@comcast.net

?? QUESTION POT ??

Look in this space each month to find answers to questions left in the Question Pot on a display table.

Q. How much space should I allow for my shade-tolerant **yellow columbine**?

A. Yellow columbine (*Aquilegia chrysantha*) needs its own territory to display both its gorgeous foliage and its unique flowers. A mature plant will easily occupy 300 sq. inches.

Q. My **wild red columbine** is forming seed pods. When do I collect seeds?

A. Wild red columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) produces many seeds. Watch closely as the seed pods mature. They will turn brown, dry, and each of the five vertical columns of seeds will slightly split open. The black seeds are visible from the top opening. Collect when they are dry enough to fall out into your hand, and before the wind blows them elsewhere. The seeds germinate readily, and seedlings transplant easily.

Q. My **Indian blanket** plants need to be moved to a sunnier plot. Is that possible?

A. Indian blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*) loves full sun. Experience has shown that they can be moved successfully when the plant is very small, but with less success once the plant is 8 to 10 inches tall. *The faster the 'move,' the better rate of recovery.*

Q. When's the best time of day to transplant?

A. In our area, spring, fall, and winter months are our most successful seasons to transplant. The most successful time to transplant is late evening so that the plant can be watered and then given time to adjust to the shock during the cool evening temperature.

Announcements

Can you help ID rosettes, weed, plant, etc.? The Native Plant Committee at Keep Denton Beautiful is asking for volunteers to help with a Denia Garden workday on **Saturday, April 23, 2005, 9:00 a.m.—noon**. Bring your gloves and gardening tools. Contact **Cynthia Maguire** for details. ☞

Wanted: **homemade ice cream freezers** for the August ice cream social. Please contact **Marilyn Martin** if you have a freezer or would be willing to make a batch of ice cream. ☞

Our chapter has selected \$500 worth of free trees (part of a donation from **Schobel's Tree Farm** in Columbus, Texas). Do you have a vehicle with a trailer hitch? If so, we need your help to transport the trees to Denton. A covered 4×8 foot trailer is also needed. Please contact any officer if you can help. ☞

In the March *Native Plant Press*, credit was given for reprinting a drawing of **lyre-leaf sage**, but the reference information was incomplete. It should have read: ***Salvia lyrata***. Shinnars, L.H., Whitehouse, E., and Mueller P. 1999. Previously unpublished original illustrations from the SMU herbarium. Courtesy of Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth. (*Editor's Note*: This information was received after the press deadline for the March issue.)



Crystals in Plants

The March program, given by Dr. **Howard Arnott**, UT Arlington, was full of interesting information.

I did not know that many plants are full of crystals. Howard Arnott depicts crystals as being “nature’s artwork.” They are in bones, teeth, kidney stones, mollusc shells, as well as in plants. These crystals come in several forms: Calcium sulphate, calcium carbonate, and calcium oxalate (CaOx). CaOx is found in more than 240 flowering plant families. It is normal to have crystals in plants, indeed crystals have been in plants for more than 280 million years. The concentration of calcium ions in the soil is higher than plants need for growth so that plants tend to absorb too much calcium, which can produce calcium toxicity. An efficient method of calcium reduction is for plants to produce CaOx crystals that are stored in leaves and seeds. Many beautiful slides of different crystal forms were shown. Crystals are in many plants that we eat, including grapes, okra, beans, and even pepper. Peppercorns are full of CaOx! The length of the crystals varies from 5 micrometers (µm) in okra, 10-20 µm in peppercorns, to 50 µm packages of crystals in grapes. We eat many plants and plant seeds that contain crystals. CaOx is not soluble in water and our bodies excrete these crystals in our urine. Kidney stones are due to the rare occurrence of many CaOx crystals sticking together and so becoming very difficult to excrete.

Secretary, **Lon Turnbull** ☞

“Wildflowers-of-Texas”

By Dorothy Thetford

Common name: **Crow-poison** or **False garlic**

Botanical name: *Nothoscordum bivalve* (L.)

Family: *Liliaceae*

When native wildflowers bloom in North Central Texas, phones ring, fieldtrips are scheduled, and photographers and artists try to capture the beauty as quickly as possible. Now is the time for all of the above. With each fieldtrip comes the realization of new rosettes, buds, foliage, and blooms. The blooming cycle is much too short (for me), lasting on an average of ten to fourteen days. So, don't assume that a certain flower will be around next week, etc. Others will replace it, and the succession continues throughout the summer and into fall.

Center stage now is a native wildflower commonly called **crow-poison**, or **false garlic** (*Nothoscordum bivalve*). Its botanical name (Greek) interprets as *nothos*, meaning false, and *scordon*, meaning garlic. Crow-poison/false garlic is not a garlic at all; neither leaf nor flower has the onion smell. Three to five glabrous, flat, green, basal leaves, only 1/8" wide and 4 to 6" long, grow from a fibrous-coated bulb in early March. A single 6 to 8-inch, leafless scape supports a terminal umbel (an umbrella arrangement where flower pedicels are all attached to the scape at the same point). Crow-poison produces 6 to 12 creamy white colored flowers, each on a one-inch pedicel.

Each flower is 1/2 inch wide, with a funnel-form length of 3/4 inch. The delicate flower of six petals and six yellow anthers opens mid-morning on sunny days and closes late afternoon. On a given day, five to six blooms may be open at the same time. To press a specimen for preservation or classroom assignment, gather at mid-day. Even though the flowers are small, they seem conspicuous when growing as a colony, or covering entire open sunny prairies. This native perennial blooms mid-March through late April, and possibly again in the fall. It is considered to be one of our most abundant and widespread wildflowers in Texas.

However, even though wildflowers are found in varying quantities in open spaces, one must never dig and remove a wildflower from TxDOT rights-of-way or private property without permission. And, even when permission is granted, the Native Plant Society of Texas recommends that no flower be picked from a colony of fewer than 100 plants. That number may seem large, but the percentage of viable seeds may be very low on any given year.

This time of year, teachers are requesting students to gather wildflower specimens for classroom projects. Instead of 30 students each collecting 50 specimens of our native wildflowers (as a Plano ISD assignment last year), allow me to suggest maybe 3 groups of 10 students could collect 10 specific specimens for classroom collaboration or, possibly use a digital camera to gather data. And even more importantly, be sure that the student (not a parent/grandparent) pursues the assignment.

Fringed puccoon (*Lithospermum incisum*), **windflower** (*Anemone berlandieri*), and tiny **bluet** (*Houstonia pusilla*) are a few of our wildflowers that have already primed out. However, **Indian paintbrush** (*Castilleja indivisa*), **Texas bluebonnets** (*Lupinus texensis*) and **prairie verbena** (*Glandularia bipinnatifida*) are ready to take center stage. Enjoy!

Dorothy's "Wildflowers-of-Texas" photo-greeting cards are available locally at Denton's Wild Bird Center and Cupboard Natural Foods.



Winecup Surprise (cont. from page 5)

perfect nursery. Early in winter when tiny plants started coming up, I wondered if they could be baby winecups. They looked similar to the **henbit** (*Lamium amplexicaule*) and **wild geranium** (*Geranium texanum*) that were sprouting but different enough for me to leave them and watch them grow. Yes, they were baby winecups! What a nice surprise. I've observed them from their tiny cotyledons to their first small true leaves, each hardly a fourth of an inch, to plants that are now spread over a space of four or five inches as their stems begin trailing out in their characteristic way.

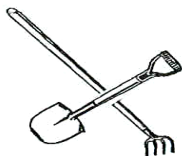
Will they bloom in their first year? I don't know. I could ask someone that knows or perhaps find out from a book, but it will be more fun to watch and see. I'll know my winecups a little better by next spring when it's time for them to bloom again

Marilyn Blanton ☞



Digging into our Roots

Fairies in the Winecups



Each spring I wait for the **winecups** to bloom with great anticipation because winecups (*Callirhoe involucrata*) have been my favorite wildflower since I was a child. The trailing perennials, with dark green lobed leaves and their pretty cup-shaped wine colored flowers, grew wild in the sandy soil around our house.

Although winecup seems to be the perfect common name, I first knew it as the **wild hollyhock**. Wild hollyhock was the name my grandfather taught me. Eula Whitehouse referred to the similar standing winecup, (*Callirhoe digitata*) as **wild hollyhawk** in her 1936 book, *Texas Flowers in Natural Color*, my first wildflower book. Both winecups have five bracts (leaf like structures just below the petals), but only *Callirhoe involucrata* has an involucre (a whorl of three bract-like structures under the bracts). Other common names are **low poppy mallow**, **fringed poppy mallow**, **buffalo rose** and **cowboy rose**.

The winecup is a member of the mallow family (*Malvaceae*) as are the **hollyhock**, **hibiscus**, and **Turk's cap**. Winecups bloom from early spring through June with blooms about two inches across, normally standing eight to twelve inches high. They open in mid-morning and close at dusk. Typical of flowers in the mallow family, they have five petals and a fused column of stamens. Winecups attract many flying insects but are pollinated mostly by bees. Winecup seeds develop in a flattened disc-like capsule. The plant grows from a tuber resembling a carrot, and winters over as a rosette of big lush leaves. It becomes sprawling in the spring and goes dormant in the summer heat. Long after the beautiful flowers are gone and the plant itself has disappeared, the memory of vivid magenta flowers lingers, making it a favorite. Its generic name is derived from the Greek word *Kallirrhoe*, meaning *beautiful flowing*.

But a flower can be a favorite for more reasons than its beauty. Sometimes it is because it captures our senses, sparks our imagination and brings back memories. There seems to be something charming and magical about the winecup that makes me happy and makes me remember. Sometimes when I look at a patch of winecups swaying in the spring breeze, I feel like a child with my grandfather again, watching the butterflies dance along the flowers and I can almost see the little fairies I used to imagine playing among them.

Marilyn Blanton ☞

(This article was first published in the April 2000 newsletter)



Winecup Surprise

Spring is here and the **winecups** (*Callirhoe involucrata*) are blooming again. They are still

my favorite wildflower. Although I thought I knew them well, this year I know them a little better.

I could recognize their dark green leaves coming back in the fall after going dormant in the summer heat. I had admired their winter rosettes edged with frost on cold mornings. I had watched their trailing stems lengthen as spring approached and knew they didn't root. I had checked their slender buds daily as soon as their wine color began to show in anticipation of the first flower. This year my first winecup bloomed on March 31st. I had also observed their seed capsules develop. They look like little green wheels that turn light brown and spit open when the seeds are mature. I had even counted the number of flat round seeds in a capsule, but I had never planted them.

The winecups I knew were wild. They had come up at random on their own. The big leaves I spotted in the fall were coming back from established tubers. Since my winecups were growing in the grass, any seedlings coming up went unnoticed. I wasn't familiar with baby winecups. This year that changed.

A couple of years ago, I started a new flowerbed in our front yard. It began when I started digging to plant a **rock rose** (*Pavonia lasiopetala*) between two large **yuccas** (*Yucca arkansana*) that were growing about eight feet apart. When that space was full, I extended the bed to take in a third yucca about fifteen feet away to plant a **possum-haw holly** (*Ilex decidua*) in between. Then I lengthened the bed to reach a fourth smaller yucca about twelve feet away so I could plant **lantana** (*Lantana horrida*). Every time I planted something new, the bed grew longer at one end or the other. The yuccas weren't growing in a straight line so my bed was soon wiggling all across the yard like a snake. As my "snake" edged along I carefully dug around any winecups in its path. They became flowers in the bed instead of the grass.

Last fall when I cleaned out my snake bed, leaving bare dirt around my winecups, I created the

(continued on page 4)

Cenizo (*Leucophyllum candidum*), an easy-growing Texas native and Azalea alternative

By Becca Dickstein

Don't you just love the look of azaleas? Are you trying to move heaven and earth to get one or several to grow in your North Texas garden? A colleague of mine told me that it was easy to grow azaleas here - just replace all the soil, make sure the new soil is extremely well drained and acidic, install an automatic irrigation system so that the soil stays moist, and you've got it! That sounds like too much work for me! I'd rather have my garden working with nature than against it.

Lucky for us in North Texas, we have several alternatives to azaleas that require a lot less work, less water, and are even more beautiful. The first of these is **cenizo**, which **Lon** and I have experimented with in our Denton backyard. We have two cenizos; one of them is silver-leaved and the other is green-leaved. Both have lavender/ purple flowers that start in the spring and continue until fall. Like azaleas, cenizos can grow into shrubby-sized plants and they take pruning very well.

Several cenizos can be seen on the University of North Texas campus, on the north side of Masters Hall. They are growing on the west side of the building, where they are also shaded from the late afternoon sun. In our back yard, the cenizos are growing in full sun. They seem to be thriving in both the part-sun and full-sun situations. In our case, we planted our cenizos in native soil, amended with a little cotton burr compost and some lava and green sand. They get watered only very occasionally, when it has been especially dry. The cenizos have lost some leaves, but not all, during winters for the 3 years we've had them. I suspect that during a harsh winter period, they may freeze back to the ground.

Other alternatives to azaleas that we've tried include tall-growing varieties of **lantana**, *Pavonia* and **Turk's cap**. More about them in the next issue... ☞



CALENDAR

Saturday, April 23, 2005, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.* ☞ Join NPAT for a trip to LBJ Grasslands near Decatur to see spring wildflowers. Led by **Jeff Quayle**. Space is limited. Contact Jeff at s-quaylei@ev1.net or 817-738-1322. ☞

Saturday, April 23, 2005, 12:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m. ☞ Join Denton Organic Society to tour **Judy Griffin's** beautiful Feng Shui garden of herbs and flowers in NE Ft. Worth. Judy uses herbs from her garden to formulate many herb products that she sells. She has a wealth of knowledge on using herbs for cooking/healing. Also, see how she makes tinctures, lotions, etc. Leave Denton at 12:30pm from the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. ☞

Thursday, April 28, 6:30 p.m. ☞ TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER MEETING at Texas Woman's University in the ACT Building. At 6:30, see Display Tables (*Name that Pressed Wildflower*) and enjoy refreshments in the second floor lobby; program is at 7:00 p.m. in Room 301. The *EARLY BIRD*

SPECIAL will be *Guidelines/requirements for collecting and pressing herbarium-quality specimens*. At 7:00 p.m. in Room 301 **Bill Lindemann**, a past president of NPSOT, will present *Big Bend National Park: A Naturalist's Dreamland*. Bill is currently writing a book on the Trans-Pecos region. Come get inspired to attend the Fall Symposium! ☞

Saturday, April 30, 2005, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.* ☞ Join NPAT for a tour of 2 prairie sites in Ft. Worth led by **Jeff Quayle**. Space is limited. Contact Jeff at s-quaylei@ev1.net or 817-738-1322 for details and to RSVP. ☞

Saturday, May 7, 2005, 9:00 a.m.—noon ☞ CHANGE OF PLANS: Visit **Jim & Mary Cunningham's** property east of Decatur, 90 acres of woods and meadows loaded with wildflowers. There should be lots of beautiful things in bloom. Meet at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant located at I-35 & Hwy 380 at 9:00 a.m. sharp (meet in the parking lot out next to the I-35 service road). ☞

Saturday, May 21, 2005, 9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. ☞ Annual Nature Conservancy tour of **Clymer Meadow, Parkhill Prairie, and Paul Matthews Prairie** in Collin and Hunt Counties, NE of McKinney. Led by **Jim Eidson**. Contact him at 903-568-4139 or jeidson@tnc.org. ☞

Saturday, May 21, 2005, 12:30—4:00 p.m. ☞ Join Denton Organic Society for a tour of **Lucy Harrell's** yard in south Arlington. Lucy is a professional landscaper. She uses a variety native, well-adapted, and old garden favorite flowers right around her house, but out front along the extended entrance drive is a large wildflower meadow. Seeing her yard is a real treat. Leave Denton at 12:30pm from Luby's cafeteria. ☞

Thursday, May 26, 6:30 p.m. ☞ TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER MEETING at Texas Woman's University in the ACT Building. At 6:30, see Display Tables (*Name that Wildflower*) and enjoy refreshments in the second floor lobby. The *EARLY BIRD SPECIAL* will be *Pressing leaves of trees* in preparation for our September meeting. At 7:00 p.m. in Room 301 **Dr. George Diggs** will present *The Cross Timbers across Time--a History of Cross Timbers Forest Plants*. ☞

Saturday, June 18 ☞ All-day trip to beautiful Gardens at Athens, southeast of Dallas. Details will follow soon. ☞

Thursday, August 25, 6:30 p.m. ☞ TRINITY FORKS ICE CREAM SOCIAL and BOOK SIGNING at Texas Woman's University. **Dr. George Diggs** and **Barney Lipscomb** from BRIT will bring their new *East Texas Flora Volume I*. ☞

**On NPAT trips with Jeff Quayle, the starting times listed are the time to meet at the tour site. Ending times are estimates.*

For details on any trip, contact Mike Mizell, 940-382-8551 or mmizell@webtv.net.

THE TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER MEETS THE 4TH THURSDAY OF JAN–MAY AND SEPT–OCT AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CLOCK TOWER (ACT) BUILDING AT TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY (OAKLAND AVE & ADMIN. DR.) IN DENTON, TEXAS.

Membership News

There were 45 people in attendance at the March 24 meeting, 13 of whom were visitors. We'd like to welcome those who joined Trinity Forks and NPSOT at our Spring Plant Sale. They are:

Brown, Sally and Sarah

13037 Cobble Stone
Aubrey, TX 76227
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Evans, Barbara

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Medler, Susan J.

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Rogers, Jean Ellen

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940-383-3900
jeanellelr@hotmail.com

Sullivan, James V.

103 E. Oak Street, Apt. 4
Denton, TX 76201
312-420-7262
jamesvsullivan@yahoo.com

Van Nostrand, Susan

1440 Rolling Acres
Argyle, TX 76226
940-240-1065
suzymsea@yahoo.com

We look forward to their association with our chapter. Please add our new members to your current directory:

There have also been four membership renewals—**Jan Hodson, Bob Killam, Betty Miller and Owen Yost.**

Membership, **Laurie Hammett** ☞



Education Is Exciting!

Are you finding rosettes at your feet? I hope that you're looking closely at the leaf arrangement, texture of leaves, and leaf design, so that when the flower appears, you'll be able to identify the plant in future finds.

Thanks to **Marilyn Blanton** for guiding us through the process of pressing a wildflower for future reference, contributions to a herbarium, or for artistic endeavors. Your assignment is to bring one pressed wildflower specimen to our April "Name-that-Pressed-Wildflower" Display Table.

Don't miss our EARLY BIRD SPECIAL at which time we will be given the specific details for submitting pressed plant specimens for herbarium preservation. Come and learn with us on **Thursday, April 28, 2005.**

Education Chair, **Dorothy Thetford** ☞

Current Officers/Board Members

President & Newsletter Editor	940-594-6555
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Secretary	940-323-8999
Lon Turnbull	<i>lont58@aol.com</i>
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Dorothy Thetford	<i>dtbetford@mailstation.com</i>
Field Trips	940-382-8551
Mike Mizell	<i>mmizell@webtv.net</i>
Historian & Programs	817-847-1816
Harriet Horton	<i>Harriet_Horton@hotmail.com</i>
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Marilyn Martin	<i>marilyn_martin@hotmail.com</i>
Membership	940-383-3287
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Publicity	972-539-9471
Irene Hanson	<i>ICHanson@metlspan.com</i>
Ways & Means	972-306-1088
Cathy Lustgarten	<i>drgoodrad@comcast.net</i>



Join the Native Plant Society of Texas—Trinity Forks Chapter. If you wish to join (or renew) indicate your category of membership, then clip and mail this application with the appropriate remittance to:
NPSOT, P.O. Box 891, Georgetown, TX 78627.

Name: _____ () Individual \$20 () Benefactor \$100 () Family \$25
Address: _____ () Group \$35 () Senior \$15 () Patron \$50
City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____ () Corporation \$1000 () Student \$15
Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Is it a “weed” or a host plant for butterflies?

Here’s a quiz: which would you rather have in your yard? **A.** butterflies, or **B.** host plants? Actually that’s something of a trick question. Because if you don’t have “**B**”, there isn’t a prayer you’ll have “**A**”. You can, however, appeal to north Texas butterflies if you give them the host plants they need. These are the only plant species that the mother lays eggs on, since the larvae can only eat these specific plants. By planning and planting now, you’ll greatly improve your odds that the mother will choose your yard.

Unfortunately, many of the host plants that butterflies require are being mowed down, herbicided, or cut down. **Bonnie Bradshaw** of Texas Discovery Gardens (our February speaker) lists host plants in this area that are in danger, including **passionvine, milkweed, aster, hackberry, frogfruit, sunflower** and **partridge pea**. In a period of just a week or two, a female butterfly can lay hundreds of eggs on a host plant. Yet only a few of them will become adult butterflies. Butterflies-to-be are most vulnerable to predators and disease during the caterpillar (larval) stage in the spring. During this time they’re still totally flightless, clinging to the host plants where they were born.

Many butterflies migrate in their search for living quarters. The attractants to a butterfly searching for a home are an abundance of the right kind of host plants for their eggs, nectar-producing plants, and places to hide from predators. If you’re serious about attracting butterflies, nothing should be sprayed on your landscape that’s artificial, man-made or poisonous. Caterpillars (which become pupae, which become butterflies) are often confused with more destructive bugs and are squashed or sprayed on sight. For example, a homeowner will kill a green, yellow and black caterpillar on a parsley plant without realizing it would soon become a gorgeous Black swallowtail.

The “right kinds of plants” for mature butterflies in north Texas include **mistflower, verbena, lantana, Turk’s cap, milkweed, butterfly weed, scarlet sage/salvia, alyssum** and **yarrow**. I’d also recommend **passionvine, hop ash, clover, sunflower** and **sumac**. Most tall, native grasses (like **bluestem, switchgrass, muhly, Indiangrass** etc.) are good too. In Texas these plants are best planted in the ground during the fall, and require very little water. Most are native to Texas, clearly and those that are not are native to an adjoining state.

– *G. Owen Yost* (with invaluable help from *Kathy Saucier*) ☞

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