



Trinity Forks Native Plant Press

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

March 2006

Trinity Forks Spring Plant Sale Saturday, April 8 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is my favorite time of year – our annual **Spring Plant Sale!** A wonderful time to visit with each other, exchange tips on using natives in our landscapes, (last year I learned 3 new plants to try in my yard) and pass on our knowledge and enthusiasm to visitors to our booth. The sale is also **our major fundraiser for the year.**

Our sale is **Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** coinciding with the Redbud Festival on the **Denton Courthouse Square. Set-up is 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and clean-up is 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.** *We need your help at both ends of the day as well as in the middle!* If you can help, please contact me with the times you are available. Pre-assigning tasks to helpers for our Fall Sale made set-up a breeze.

We will be displaying plants on the ground this year, instead of on tables, with large information signs mounted on stakes in the ground. This should help our customers shop as well as make set-up and clean-up much easier. If you have a canopy to loan us, please tell me as soon as possible, so we don't have to buy one. And be sure to bring your surplus trays for customers to use carrying out their plants.

Of course, **our biggest need is plants and seeds.** **Let me know what you are bringing so I can try to have a sign for it.** Seeds should be **cleaned and divided** into **small, labeled containers.** Let me know if you need help doing that. Each plant should be in a clean, individually **labeled** pot for a good impression, free of dead leaves and stems. The **label** should state **common & scientific names**, and whether it needs **sun or shade**, is an **annual or perennial.** Water your plants the night before the sale.

Our goal is to sell only plants that were native to Texas before Europeans arrived, and that are naturally well adapted to the Denton County area. Don't be fooled into bringing native plant-wanna-be's! You know -- those are the plants that weren't born here, but they got to Texas as fast as they could! An easy way to verify that a plant is suitable for our sale is to **check it against the six lists of plants on our Chapter website.** These include landscape plants native within 50 miles of Denton and specialty garden lists for wildlife habitat as well as butterfly, shade,

winter and water gardens. These lists are available at www.npsot.org/TrinityForks/TrinityForksWeb/plants.html. There are bound to be **additional native plants** we would welcome in our sale that are **not** on one of these lists. ***Please call or email me to double check that they should be included, and so that I can prepare an information sign.***

Tell your neighbors, friends, and co-workers now about the plant sale and encourage them to come! Help educate folks about the value of native plants, both in the wild and in our landscapes – they preserve our heritage; provide food for wildlife, birds, and insects; conserve water; reduce fertilizer use; are low maintenance and disease resistant. Be prepared to help customers select an appropriate species for their garden needs. Tell visitors about our programs and field trips. We will have plant lists available for sale, and newsletters to pass out. You won't want to miss out on the fun and excitement! **SEE YOU AT THE REDBUD FESTIVAL!!!**

Cathy Lustgarten, Vice-President ☞
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Our March 23 Program

Our March speaker will be **Dr. Ken Dickson**, Regents professor of biological sciences at the University of North Texas' Institute of Applied Sciences and Director of the Elm Fork Education Center. Dr. Dickson's research interests include water quality, fate and effect of contaminants in water, restoration ecology, sustainability and environmental education. His presentation, *Water Needs of North Texas Native Plants*, will better inform us about our water supply and the water requirements for North Texas plants. This is an important topic and we look forward to an enlightening evening. Come—and bring a friend!

Where? **Texas Woman's University** ACT Building (Clock Tower) 304 Administration Drive, between Bell and Oakland Streets. Park in the visitor's lot or in any lot adjacent to the ACT building.

When? **Thursday, March 23, 2006.** Displays and refreshments at 6:30 p.m. on Second Floor; Program at 7:00 p.m. in Room 301.



Specifically Speaking, Grow Native!

After a mild winter and several days of 80-degree temperatures, it seems to me that our roadsides, gardens, and flowerbeds jumped into high gear and turned green, budded out and began blooming overnight. What a thrill! If you were caught off guard or didn't have time to prepare for this emergence of new life, don't fret. With neither planning nor preparation, our native plants return again and again to remind us of a new and renewed growing cycle. Granted, the annuals may not return in the exact spot where we found them last year, but we gratefully acknowledge them and respect the fact that they grow where they want to grow, in the soil that they prefer, and continue their individual schedules regardless of us.

So what is a **'native'** plant? A simple answer from botanist **Sage Kawecki** is: "A native plant is **a plant that has been growing in an area prior to European settlement**, something Native Peoples would have seen, and perhaps used, 10,000 years ago. Because they have been part of our land for so long, they have developed survival strategies for our climate, soils, elevations and weather patterns."

Then, what is a **'naturalized'** plant? Naturalized species are simply non-natives that reproduce in the area without human assistance. Easily recognized examples in bloom now are **Henbit** (*Lamium amplexicaule*), and **Grape-hyacinth** (*Muscari neglectum*).

'Introduced' is another descriptive term used to identify plants, and that, in my opinion, is interpreted as a plant that has been brought in from another geographic region and allowed to grow under controlled or uncontrolled situations. Herein lays a dilemma. Introduced species become a serious problem when these plants escape control and begin crowding out, covering or smothering, stealing water from, and/or replacing our native plants, whether they be trees, shrubs, vines or wildflowers. A few introduced plants that one might easily recognize are **exotic bamboo** (*Bambusa phyllostachys* and *B. pseudosassa*), aquatic **Hydrilla** (*Hydrilla verticillata*), shrub **Privet** (*Ligustrum sinense*), trees **Bradford pear** (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford') and **Chinese tallow** a.k.a. popcorn tree (*Sapium sebiferum*), and also vines

such as **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*), **Kudzu** (*Pueraria montana v. lobata*), **Japanese honeysuckle** (*Lonicera japonica*) and **Periwinkle** (*Vinca minor*).

'Genetically-altered' is a self-explanatory term. Approximately 95% of the plants available to the public through the nursery trade fall into this category. They are altered to assure more predictable color, longer blooming cycle, and in many cases sterile plants that are more water-demanding and labor intensive. These plants provide a very competitive income to the growers, some of which produce their stock hundreds of miles from the location at which the plant is sold, while betting on survival for at least one year.

Would **'invasive'** make your ears perk up? Both natives and non-natives can be invasive. If you want the native **Lyre-leaf sage** (*Salvia lyrata*) to quickly and efficiently cover an area as a superb ground cover and prevent soil erosion, you would not classify it as invasive. However, if you grow it in a controlled environment and discover that its seeds germinate readily and plants appear in spaces not planned, it could be labeled invasive. A similar example is the non-native/introduced **Bermuda grass** (*Cynodon dactylon*).

These terms may be helpful to you when visiting your local nursery. However, to lessen the frustrations, set aside Saturday, April 8 to do your spring plant shopping. Hundreds of native plants will be available then, along with informed members to help guide your selections. Don't miss it! Grow Native!

Dorothy Thetford ☪



Membership News

We welcome one new member to Trinity Forks Chapter since February 1, 2006:

Kay George

Member renewals in the same time period have been received for:

Glena D. Allen • Rodney Barton • Becca Dickstein & Lon Turnbull • Jan Hodson • Dave & Marilyn Martin • Carla Orr

Fifty members and guests were present at our February meeting.

Laurie Hammett, Membership ☪



CALENDAR

Thurs, March 23, 6:30 p.m. ☞ TRINITY FORKS

CHAPTER MEETING at Texas Woman's University in the ACT Building. At 6:30, see Display Tables and enjoy refreshments in the second floor lobby; program begins at 7:00 p.m. in Room 301. Our featured speaker will be

Dr. Ken Dickson from the University of North Texas addressing *Water Needs of Texas Native Plants*. ☞

Sat, March 25, all day ☞ Visit **BRIT** (Botanical Research Institute of Texas) in Fort Worth to see their magnificent herbarium collection and library of valuable botanical books. (This is a fascinating place!) Eat lunch in FW then proceed to Weatherford to see the Texas champion (and perhaps national champion) **Pecan** tree, estimated to be 500-1000 years old. **Howard Garrett** has been advising the owners on the care of this superb tree for several years. Leave Denton at 9:00 a.m. from the Ben E. Keith Beer Distributorship on I-35 just south of Oak/Hickory Street. Return about 4 p.m. ☞

Fri, March 31, 1:00 p.m. ☞ Recycling Facility Tour.

The waste recycling facility operated by Allied Waste Management Services (the company that handles recycled waste collection for Denton and many other area cities). Leave Denton at 1:00 p.m. from Holiday Lanes Bowling Alley on University Dr. at Ruddell St. Return about 5:30 p.m. ☞

Sat, April 8, all day ☞ Trinity Forks Spring Plant Sale.

Enter the Square at Locust & Hickory. Festival staff will advise where our booth is located. Setup 8:00-10:00 a.m. Sale from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tear down 4:00-5:00 p.m. Your help is needed!! ☞

Thurs, April 27, 6:30 p.m. ☞ TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER

MEETING at Texas Woman's University in the ACT Building. At 6:30, see Display Tables and enjoy refreshments in the second floor lobby; program begins at 7:00 p.m. in Room 301. Don Kenney will present *Plant Roots and Soil Microorganisms: The Perfect Couple*. ☞

Sat, April 29, 8:30 a.m. ☞ Tour Lake Lewisville

Environmental Learning Area (LLELA) in Lewisville led by **Dr. Ken Steigman**. See prairie restoration area and bison project, as well as a huge variety of native vegetation. Next, tour the adjoining **Lewisville ISD Outdoor Learning Area** (LISDOLA) led by **Steve Spurger**. If you wish, participate in the annual plant trade that morning at LISDOLA (see our website for details). Bring binoculars for birdwatching and \$3 for entrance to LLELA. Leave

Denton at 8:30 a.m. from Luby's Cafeteria. Return around 1:00 p.m. If you wish to bring a picnic lunch, there are tables at LISDOLA where you can enjoy the outdoors. ☞

Sat, May 6, 10:00 a.m.—Noon ☞ A guided tour of Wilma Haggard's property in southeast Denton at 1900 S. Mayhill Rd. (next to the Denton landfill). She has several acres of wonderful wildflowers. ☞

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

Current Officers/Board Members

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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 3017, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. *Join or renew now—prices will increase on May 1, 2006.*

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

??? QUESTION POT ???

Q. I've waited and waited for my Cutleaf daisy plant to seed-out so that I could transplant and expand to other areas of my yard. When do I move the seedlings?

A. **Engelmann daisy** (*Engelmannii pinnatifida*) is well worth the wait. It is truly one of our most dependable and colorful wildflowers that blooms in the spring, and oftentimes again as the heat of summer subsides. After its long spring-blooming session, the plant can be trimmed back for later blooms if you don't want to wait for the seeds to develop. I have even seen it re-bloom after roadside mowing. Now, to answer your question, you must, must, must be able to identify the leaves in their rosette stage, when they are only 1-2" long, and arranged in a 'flat' design. Once you're assured of its identity, you will be more successful in transplanting if you use a sharp-shooter shovel, making 6-8" deep cuts vertically around the plant. Do not make angled, shallow cuts. Lift gently and watch to see that the plant lifts with your shovel vs. remaining stationary. If it doesn't lift, then dig deeper before lifting. The root resembles a slim, long carrot, and breaks easily even with the most gentle shovel work. Rosette plants of 3-4" diameter may have a 6-8" root. Transplant with the attached soil, if possible, to avoid breaking off the small hair-like side roots. Move as early in spring as possible. Engelmann daisy loves full sun, and with supplemental water in a nurtured flowerbed will provide 3 to 4 ft. plants loaded with yellow daisies. This one is a keeper!

Dorothy Thetford
"Wildflowers-of-Texas"

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