



# Trinity Forks Native Plant Press

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

April 2006

from the Prez

## Glorious April!

Doesn't it just take your breath away? Every day when I step into my back yard, there is another one – or two, or four – new plants in bloom! I have always enjoyed gardening, but since joining the Native Plant Society of Texas it has become a very special pleasure to me. Several plants acquired from members of our chapter in previous years are now well established in my garden and making quite a spectacle of themselves. These include **Gulf-coast penstemon** (*Penstemon tenuis*), purple **phlox** (*Phlox* sp.), **lyre leaf sage** (*Salvia lyrata*), and two **columbines** (*Aquilegia longissima* and *A. canadensis*). The **cherry sages** (*Salvia greggii*) – one is never enough! – are an inspiration to any who visit, including an early spring hummingbird. **Spiderwort** (*Tradescantia* spp.) and **golden groundsel** (*Senecio obovatus*) brighten a shady corner. And my brilliant, yellow-painted **buttercups** (*Ranunculus repens*) are really taking off!

My appreciation of the plant community outside my own back door is deeper and richer than ever before. I see not only an attractive landscape, but a home for many of God's creatures. As my collection of native plants has become more diverse, so has the wildlife that calls our garden "home." Numerous kinds of birds and butterflies, moths, frogs, and a gecko family share our space. I now find myself choosing a new plant just because it will entice a certain animal into my garden. None of this would have happened if I had not been introduced to the value of native plants by members of Trinity Forks.

As individuals, each of you has an opportunity to influence others. Collectively, your efforts have incredibly far-reaching effects. This point was clearly made earlier this month as our spring plant sale unfolded. What an amazing day it was! I remember the first sale I personally attended as a customer, a mere six years ago. The entire booth was no larger than my kitchen, but it had two or three knowledgeable volunteers and maybe 200 plants. This annual event has grown "**from the ground, up.**" This year, we probably had closer to 3000 plants and two dozen

members who came to talk to any who would listen. **Wow!** While we can all take pride in this year's event, one member deserves a special thank you from all of us for her tireless dedication and determination to "kick it up a notch"-- **Cathy Lustgarten**. Cathy's vision has been to make our plant sale bigger and better than ever. New signs, including photos of the flowers, identified the displays. For the first time, plants were all on the ground instead of tables. The Kids Korner was a beehive of activity. A large display attracted passers-by. Several new members signed up. It was a huge success. *Thank you, Cathy!!!*

In keeping with our 2006 program theme "**from the ground, up,**" in this month's program we will learn how soil bacteria make nitrogen from the air into fertilizer and feed it to the roots of many plants. It will be an enlightening talk, full of good tidbits of information for everyone from the newest members to native plant experts. I hope to see each of you on **Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**. As always, invite a friend. It's a great way to encourage them to **Grow Native!**

Cynthia Maguire, President ☞



## April 27 Program: *Plant Roots and Soil Microorganisms: The Perfect Couple.*

**D**on Kenney, co-owner of Painted Flower Farm, will present our April program. His talk will include introductions to microbiology, soil science, plant/microorganism interactions and—yes, get ready!—quizzes on native plant identification. We look forward to a fun and educational evening! All are welcome; the program is free.

**Where?** Texas Woman's University ACT Building (Clock Tower) 304 Administration Drive, between Bell and Oakland Streets.

**When?** Thursday, April 27, 2006. Displays and refreshments at 6:30 p.m. on Second Floor; Program at 7:00 p.m. in Room 301. Park in the visitors' lot or in any lot adjacent to the ACT building.

## We Not Only Dug Up Our Roots – We Sold ‘em, too!!

### Plant Sale Surpasses Previous Records!

If anyone had any doubts about the public's interest in native plants, they were surely put to rest April 8 at the Redbud Festival. The steady winds while we were setting up at first seemed to be from the tail of Friday night's cold front. But that was actually the whirlwind created by the rush of people headed our way. In the first hour, visitors swarmed our booth like bees on honey. By 11 a.m. the wind had died down, and more than half our stock had been sold. There can be no doubt that the public knows about us and seeks us out! They knew what they wanted and they snatched it up. Most visitors later in the day tended to be studious and inquisitive shoppers eager for information from our two dozen volunteers.

We had about 65 species of annuals, perennials, shrubs, vines, grasses, and trees, plus dozens of kinds of seeds. Painted Flower Farm supported us once again by placing over 100 plants on consignment, and we sold nearly all of them. Our net sales for the day, after expenses, increased 30% over last year.

The Kids Korner was very popular again this year, with a constant crowd until the plants ran out in early afternoon. Much literature was passed out and we signed up several new members.

We donated 120 plants for garden projects at Sam Houston Elementary School, Pecan Creek Elementary, Calhoun Middle School, Hodge Elementary, Newton Rayzor Elementary, Ann Windle School, Borman Elementary, and Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area. LLELA has already planted all of theirs, and invites us to take a look at the resulting butterfly garden during our upcoming field trip there. A couple hundred plants were retained for later sales.

A huge thank you goes out to our entire membership. It was your plant donations, supplies, energy, enthusiasm, and expertise both before Apr. 8 and on the day of the sale that made it all possible – far too many to even begin to list here. I would especially like to thank the eight members who helped me create the information signs for 60 plants, donating not only time and expertise, but office supplies as well. Y'all are a joy to work with!

Cathy Lustgarten, Ways & Means Chair ☞  
972/306-1088 [drgoodrad@comcast.net](mailto:drgoodrad@comcast.net)

## Recent Program Reviews

### Natives Instead of Common Exotics (NICE!)

Betty Dunn, a Past-President of the Boerne Chapter of NPSOT, gave us the history of their 4-year old idea, Natives Instead of Common Exotics or NICE! The goal is to increase both the demand for and the supply of native plants.

Betty presented methods to increase information, understanding, and availability of native plants in the community. Their chapter promotes and sponsors the usage of a selected native plant-of-the-month for ten months per year at sponsoring nurseries. Each plant selection is accompanied with an informational poster about that particular plant. Boerne found the best advertisement to be a newspaper article released when the new plant-of-the-month is placed at the nurseries.

A large committee is optimal to implement this kind of project successfully to avoid burn out! Go to The Boerne chapter website, [www.npsot.org/Boerne](http://www.npsot.org/Boerne), for information on their chosen plants of the month.

P.S. Our Trinity Forks chapter has implemented a NICE! program based on a seasonal variation--four plants per year.

### Water Needs of North Texas Native Plants

Dr. Ken Dickson, a biology professor at the University of North Texas, presented *Water Needs of North Texas Native Plants* at our March meeting. He got our attention by asking a question most of the audience could not answer: what do you pay for a gallon of delivered water?

A survey of citizen knowledge about water conducted at UNT showed that 80% of people do not know what their water costs; 56% do not know the source of the water that arrives at their homes; and 52% of those surveyed say they are very concerned about water quality. Some people think water quality is either a city or a county problem, but not their problem!!

Our household water comes from Lake Ray Roberts and Lake Lewisville. Two main sources of pollutants in this watershed are point sources, like treatment plants and factories (controllable) – and non-point sources: in other words, **all of us!**

The pollutants are of concern because treatment plants were not designed to remove pharmaceuticals and pesticides. Given human population growth, our future lies with water re-use; that is the best way we know of to support both humans and the plants that support us.

Lon Turnbull, Secretary ☞

**Operation NICE! Plant of the Season- Spring 2006:  
Yellow Columbine, Texas Gold Columbine, Hinckley's Yellow Columbine  
(*Aquilegia hinckleyana*)**

By Rebecca Dickstein, Ph.D.



Photo: Lon Turnbull

**T**rinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) is starting a local program to promote the use of native Texas plants in our gardens and landscapes. The program is called Natives Instead of Common Exotics (NICE!) and is the brainchild of NPSOT's Boerne chapter. Four times a year, or once a season, we will highlight the use of part of our natural heritage. For Spring 2006, we are highlighting **Yellow Columbine**.

There are 3 species of native Yellow Columbine in Texas, however *A. hinckleyana* is most available in nurseries. Yellow Columbine is a small to medium perennial plant found in mossy areas of West Texas. When not in bloom, its soft lacy foliage is 8 to 16 inches high. Each leaf has three lobed leaflets. When flowering, it sends up airy 1 to 3 foot stalks, which open to reveal yellow to pale yellow blooms that seem to float above the foliage. The five petals are elongated into knob-tipped spurs. Like other columbines, it is a nectar source for hummingbirds and butterflies. Yellow Columbine's bloom period extends from March through May, with occasional blooms in the summer if it receives supplemental watering.

Yellow Columbine is a plant for full, dappled, or partial shade. It likes moist, but well-drained soil and will grow best in soil that has been amended with organic matter like compost. Allow about 12-16 inches between plants. After planting, water well and mulch. The plant will spread by self-sowing or re-seeding, but expect the parent plant to last at least several years. Yellow Columbine should be watered once a week until well established. During a summer drought, or after a hard winter freeze, the plant will become dormant. However, it will recover when growing conditions improve. But do not over water or it may rot. This is an interesting and beautiful ornamental plant for a shade garden. Use Yellow Columbine instead of geraniums or begonias, which require more frequent watering.

*Dr. Rebecca Dickstein is a member of the Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas, and is also a member of the Biological Sciences faculty at the University of North Texas..*

**Natives Instead of Common Exotics!**

**Trinity Forks Plants of the Season for 2006**

**Spring – Yellow Columbine**

*(Aquilegia chrysantha/hinckleyana/longissima)*

**Summer – Turk’s Cap**

*(Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii)*

**Fall – American Beautyberry**

*(Callicarpa Americana)*

**Winter – Sideoats Grama (state grass)**

*(Bouteloua curtipendula)*

**Coming in 2007**

**Spring - Coral Honeysuckle**

*(Lonicera sempervirens)*

**Summer - Mexican Hat**

*(Ratibida columnaris)*

**Fall – Gayfeather**

*(Liatris mucronata)*

**Winter – Possumhaw Holly**

*(Ilex decidua)*

**Introducing our NI CE! Committee members:**

**Marilyn Blanton & Kathy Saucier**, co-coordinators

**Mark Chapin - Mary Curry - Becca Dickstein - Fonda Fox**

**Laurie Hammett - Harriet Horton - Shirley Lusk**

**Elizabeth McMath - Patrick Peterson - Jeremy Voss**

Look for the NI CE! Plant of the Month signs and information sheets on your next visit to a participating North Texas nursery.

**Current participating nurseries include:**

**Decatur Garden Center**–Decatur

**Four Seasons Nursery**–Denton

**Green Mama’s**–North Richland Hills

**Huggin’s Nursery**–Flower Mound

**Lantana Nursery**–Bartonville

**Meador’s Nursery**–Denton

**Painted Flower Farm**–Denton

**Shades of Green Nursery**–Frisco.

*Be sure to tell them thanks!*

## CALENDAR

**Thurs, Apr 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. Our featured speaker will be **Don Kenney** of Painted Flower Farm addressing *The Influence of Microorganisms on the Growth of Plants*. ☞

**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 ([www.lisd.net/main/headlines/plantswap.pdf](http://www.lisd.net/main/headlines/plantswap.pdf)). Pot Luck at Noon. Bring binoculars for birdwatching and \$3 for entrance to LLELA. Leave Denton at 8:30 a.m. from Luby's Cafeteria. Return around 1 p.m. ☞

**Sat, May 6, 10:00 a.m. ☞ 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. ☞

**Sat, May 20, 9:45 a.m. ☞ Tour Don & Marilee Kenney's Painted Flower Farm** and see various methods used to propagate a variety of plants. Meet at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant (on I-35 Service Road north of Hwy 380). Or join us at the Farm at 10:00 a.m. – 3801 Lariat Rd., Denton – West of I35E, 1 block N of 380 – turn right on Marshall Road – farm at corner of Lariat & Marshall Rds. Maps at table. ☞

**Thu., May 25, 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. We will continue our program theme "from the ground, up" with **Dr. Al Knauf**. His topic will be *Practical Soil Science for Plant Lovers*. ☞

**Sat, Jun 3, 8 a.m. to Noon – Tour Tierra Verde Golf Course** operated by Arlington Parks Dept. Committed to environmental excellence, it was developed under Audubon guidelines. Much of its 256 acres are preserved in a natural state, so expect an abundance of wildlife and wildflowers. Leave Denton at 8:00am from Luby's Cafeteria on I-35 just south of Loop 288. Return around noon. ☞

*THE TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER MEETS THE 4<sup>TH</sup> 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.*

## Membership News

**W**e welcome five new members of Trinity Forks Chapter who have joined since March 1, 2006: **Maryjo Bruce - Don & Patricia Edwards - Brenda & Bruce Grossie - Michelle Harper - Pam Hawkins.**

In the same period, renewals have been received from **Sally Brown - Kay Broyles - Mark Chapin - Curtis & Carolyn Gold - Camelia Maier & George Roberson - Steven Spurger - Mr. & Mrs. Allan Vik - Kay Warmerdam - Brigitte Yarborough - Owen Yost.**

Remember to renew soon: the rates are going up on May 1<sup>st</sup>, so do it now if you want a bargain.

Fifty-four members and guests were present at our March meeting.

*Laurie Hammett, Membership ☞*

## Current Officers/Board Members

President <b>Cynthia Maguire</b>	940.594.6555 <i>c.maguire@charter.net</i>
Vice President <b>Cathy Lustgarten</b>	972.306.1088 <i>drgoodrad@comcast.net</i>
Secretary <b>Lon Turnbull</b>	940.323.8999 <i>lont58@aol.com</i>
Treasurer <b>Caroline Polliard</b>	940.382.0957
Education <b>Steve Spurger</b>	940.391.3798 <i>spurgers@lisd.net</i>
Field Trips <b>Mike Mizell</b>	940.382.8551 <i>birdmizell@msn.com</i>
Historian <b>Harriet Horton</b>	817.847.1816 <i>Harriet_Horton@hotmail.com</i>
Hospitality <b>Marilyn Martin</b>	940.382.8014 <i>martin_marilyn@hotmail.com</i>
Membership <b>Laurie Hammett</b>	940.383.3287 <i>laurie.hammett@verizon.net</i>
Newsletter <b>Joan Phelps</b>	940.898.3860 or 321.5980 <i>phelpsje@att.net</i> or <i>jphelps@mail.twu.edu</i>
NICE! Co-coordinators	
<b>Marilyn Blanton</b>	940.464.7775 or 382.8014 <i>la@postoakplace.com</i>
<b>Kathy Saucier</b>	972.492.4680 <i>gsaucier@swbell.net</i>
Publicity/Webmaster	
<b>Irene Hanson</b>	972.539.9471 <i>ICFHanson@metlspan.com</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 3017, Fredericksburg, TX 78624.** Prices will increase May 1.

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

## Woolly Dutchman's Pipe

**W**hen I first found out we would have *Aristolochia tomentosa* in our plant sale this year, I thought for sure members would be jostling each other to try to get theirs before they were all gone. But at the end of the sale only a dozen were gone. So they either went unnoticed in the flurry of the sale, or the enchantment of this curious vine remains undiscovered. We're here to fix that!

**Woolly Dutchman** is a deciduous vine found in moist woods that is a larval plant for Pipevine Swallowtail Butterflies. It will climb 20-30 feet into trees, but I have most often found it in East Texas in early spring, while still only knee high, when the large heart-shaped leaves at first fool me into thinking I have found a redbud seedling deep in the woods. The fun part of this plant is the 2" hairy (tomentose), fleshy flowers shaped like a Dutch smoking pipe, which appear along the vine in late spring, each shaded by the leaf above it. This vine will quickly cover a trellis and has been used historically to screen porches and arbors.

Dutchman's Pipe grows in full sun to part shade, needs a moist but well-drained soil, and will not tolerate a dry soil. The leaves will add to your fall color palette. Cut back in late winter if needed to control growth. Now, if you can't live without one, but missed it at the sale, take heart! We will bring a flat of them to the April chapter meeting. These were grown from seed collected in the wild in Denton County by Mike Reynolds.

*Cathy Lustgarten, Ways & Means Chair* ☞

---

Native Plant Society of Texas  
Trinity Forks Chapter  
P.O. Box 425491  
Denton, Texas 76204

[www.npsot.org/TrinityForks](http://www.npsot.org/TrinityForks)  
April 2006

*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*