



[View this email in your browser](#)

**Boerne Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas  
Chapter Meeting  
Tuesday, March 7  
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium  
6:00 - 6:45 pm - Check-in & Hospitality  
6:45 - 7:00 pm Announcements/Program**

***Jumpstart your Native Garden*  
presented by Haeley Giambalvo**

Start gardening with more Texas native plants now! Learn how just a few small changes to what you are growing can make a big impact in terms of supporting more insects, birds, and other wildlife. You can support more insects and wildlife, one plant at a time.

Haeley Giambalvo developed a passion for growing native plants that support insects and wildlife, while becoming a Texas Master Naturalist in 2020, and now wants to tell everyone she can about their benefits. Haeley serves on the boards of the Alamo Area Master Naturalists and the NPSOT San Antonio Chapter. She volunteers in maintaining native plant demonstration gardens around town along with her fellow plant-loving friends.



**Letter from the President  
Pam Bransford**

Dear Members,

Spring appears to be here! I am certainly thrilled to see that most of my trees are still alive after that incredible ice event. Mother Nature did some pruning for us, but I was most surprised by some of the huge broken limbs on ash juniper in our neighborhood.

We officially welcomed Bill Magner, our new chapter vice president, at the February meeting. He and his wife are new to the hill country and are eager to learn about the native plants in our area. Be sure to introduce yourself at next week's meeting.

This is the time of year when several of us get notified by the State NPSOT about renewing our membership. So please be sure you have current contact information in your online portal which is on the NPSOT.org website. Simply login to update your email address. We are delighted to have new members join us anytime, so please keep sharing our chapter information and bringing guests to meetings and events.

The Boerne Chapter executive board approved the proposal from the hospitality committee to begin the chapter meeting social time at 6pm with announcements to begin promptly at 6:45 followed by the presentation at 7. Those of us bringing food or beverages to share should arrive no later than 6. Others are welcome to arrive anytime between 6 and 6:45.

Hope to see you and perhaps meet some newcomers at the March 7 chapter event!

**New Members**

Welcome to our newest member Renee Davis!

**Mark Your Calendar**

**March 7** - Chapter Meeting. "Jumpstart Your Native Garden" by Haeley Giambalvo.  
**March 11** - Second Saturday Work Day at Cibolo Nature Center with Veronica Hawk.

**April 4** - Chapter Meeting. "Big Tooth Maples and Seed Collection and Storage" by Chuck Janzow.  
**April 8** - Second Saturday Work Day at Cibolo Nature Center with Veronica Hawk  
**April 22** - Spring Native Plant Sale, Herff Farm.

**May 2** - Chapter Meeting. "Fireflies" by Ben Pfeiffer.  
**May 13** - Second Saturday Work Day at Cibolo Nature Center with Veronica Hawk.

Second Saturday Work Day at Cibolo Nature Center is a volunteer/learning opportunity to experience the native flora and fauna of the Cibolo Nature Center with Veronica Hawk. Volunteers meet in the parking lot at 9 a.m. This is "come and go" until 12 p.m. Volunteers are asked to bring their own water and snacks, gloves, hat and favorite gardening tool.

**Calling All Growers!!  
Spring Native Plant Sale  
by Kathy Webster**

The Spring Native Plant Sale is scheduled for April 22, 2023 at Herff Farm in Boerne. Please begin digging up and potting your native plant volunteers or plant some seeds. If anyone has extra 1-gallon, 1-quart, or even 4-inch plastic pots, please bring them to the next NPSOT meeting to be used by growers. Hope to see you there!

**Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP)  
by Veronica Hawk**

NLCP is a series of day-long classes that teach best practices for native plant landscaping – including wildlife habitat gardening. Each class consists of an indoor training session and a plant identification section. We show you plants native to the local eco-region, illustrating their use in the landscape. You will also see common non-native plants which may take over our natural areas. In each level you are presented 45 native Texas plants recommended for your landscape and 5 plants to avoid. These classes are for anyone interested in adding native plants to their landscapes. Classes are adapted for specific regions.

**April 1 - Level 1** at Cibolo Nature Center.  
**October 14 - Level 3** at Cibolo Nature Center.  
**Level 4** - TBD. There are no prerequisites for this class.

For more information about the NLCP or to volunteer, please contact Veronica Hawk at [veronica.hawk@gmail.com](mailto:veronica.hawk@gmail.com).

**Bamboo Brigade  
by Rachel Thompson**

On Monday, February 20, at 9 am, the Bamboo Brigade assembled for its first battle with the highly invasive Golden Bamboo growing at the south end of the Boerne City Campus Natural Area. The attack was two-pronged, one from above, cutting off the culms (stalks), and one from below, digging up rhizomes (underground runners). There was also a large amount of trash and many dead bamboo culms lying about which the group picked up and stacked.

This first session was a learning experience for the thirteen NPSOT and TMN volunteers. Different methods for cutting back the culms and digging up the rhizomes were tried. Growth of the colony through an old wire fence made using power hedge trimmers and reciprocating saws difficult, so nippers and loppers did the best job. For digging up the rhizomes, all shapes of shovels worked, but there were a LOT of satellite clumps connected by rhizomes. Fortunately the ground was soft and there were no rocks. Kathy Webster and Gary Fest were competing to see who could remove the longest rhizome, but the real contest was to see who could last the longest. Contributing to the cutting, stacking, and picking up effort were Gary Rogers, Stuart Brown, Bill Magner, Rita King, Lorraine Popp, Lynette English, Linda Miller, Rachel Thompson, Vicki Schmidt, Crystal McElhenney, and Rheda Boardman. At the end of the morning, progress had been made. Large stacks of bamboo and bags of trash were left to be picked up by the City.

More work sessions are planned, and several issues are now more clear. Taking down the old fence is important to make the cutting easier and permission will be sought to remove it. As is always the case when dealing with invasive bamboo, the colonies are growing beyond the property line, and if those areas are not cleared, the battle will never end. Fortunately, the Natural Area backs up to a narrow strip of grass next to a parking lot, so hopefully the neighbors won't mind if their bamboo is removed. Herbicide is now being considered. Before it can be applied, however, the bamboo culms must be cut down. The herbicide is then applied to the leaves of new shoots. Because the culms are hollow, painting the stumps after cutting doesn't work. And finally, this area is not a candidate for removal of rhizomes with heavy equipment. The risk of damage to the roots of surrounding trees and compaction of the soil are not acceptable.

Another work session is being planned for the week of March 5; the exact date will be sent after coordination with the trash and brush haulers. Notify Rachel Thompson ([rjat@alumni.rice.edu](mailto:rjat@alumni.rice.edu)) if you would like to participate and have not already put your name on the list



Before



After



Crew

**The Native Plant Society of Texas 2023 Spring Symposium**

The auditorium at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center was filled to capacity with NPSOT members for the Spring Symposium, the event was also available online. There were five speakers with a wide variety of informative topics: land acquisition and conservation easements through the Nature Conservancy, riparian vegetation and conservation easements through the Nature Conservancy, riparian vegetation through the state, invasives, plants and habitat for native bees research done through the UT Jha Lab, and plants for hummingbirds. The presentations were followed by guided and self guided tours of the gardens.

**March Meeting Hospitality**

Our Chapter Hospitality Chairman Gary Roger's theme for March is: Why are there leprechauns and shamrocks everywhere? To help your garden grow!

Menu for March Meeting: "Roasted Corned beef, Fried Buttered Cabbage + Roasted Red potatoes.

Also, Cynthia's homemade non-alcoholic punch and a variety of sweet and savory side dishes from volunteering members. Remember alcoholic beverages must be supplied by choice of each member. As always, members are welcomed to bring a side dish. Hope to see everyone at the meeting!



(Natives Instead of Common Exotics)  
(Natives Improve and Conserve Environments)

**NICE! Plant of the Month March  
Damianita  
(Chrysantha mexicana)**



Photos taken by

Marcus, Joseph A, Heisch, Randy, Mathews, Ray

For more information about March NICE! Plant of the Month, click [here](#)



Our mailing address is:  
PO Box 1032  
Boerne, Texas 78006

You are receiving these emails because you are a current or recent member of the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

