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Boerne Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas Chapter Meeting Tuesday, April 4 Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium 6:00 - 6:45 pm - Check-in & Hospitality 6:45 - 8:00 pm Announcements/Program

Seed Propagation, Collection and Storage

presented by Chuck Janzow



Learn the process of seed collection, storage, and preparation for the planting of local native plants.

Chuck is a founding member of the Boerne chapter of NPSOT and has been a member of this chapter for 20 years. He is a retired science teacher from Boerne High School. His native plant interest started in 1992 and he started a Nursery in 1994 focused on woody perennials.

Letter from the President Pam Bransford

Dear Members,

Chapter activities are getting back into full swing. Hopefully you are signed up to learn and participate in those activities that interest you. If you have any questions, just ask!

For those folks that are new to our chapter, I want to let you know that we can't accomplish all we do as a chapter without everyone pitching in - whether helping in one of our many public native pollinator gardens, bringing snacks to the chapter meetings or serving on the executive board and steering the ship. There are roles for every level of interest.

In fact, we still have a vacant board position, the president-elect, that needs to be filled and a new slate of officers will need to be nominated in early fall. I hope some of you will strongly consider joining the board by volunteering for one of the open positions. Board members serve one 12 month term. We typically hold 8 monthly educational chapter meetings, 2 social gatherings, and our hour long executive board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. We all help each other out to keep our Boerne Chapter going strong. Please contact me by email at pamela.bransford@npsot.org or give me a call at 830-431-6155.

Even though I have been a Native Plant Society of Texas member for five years, I still have so much to learn. Being part of this team is also great fun!

New Members

Welcome to our newest member Renee Davis, Sarah Bader and Peter Cowger.

Mark Your Calendar

April 1 - NCLP Level 1 - Space still available. 8 am-3 pm at Herff Farm Gathering Hall. To register: https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/
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 21 - Ribbon Cutting Celebrating Boerne NPSOT's membership in the Boerne Chamber of Commerce. Please come and celebrate our membership and help promote the Spring Plant Sale. The ribbon cutting will be at 2 pm at Herff Farm where we host the plant sales.
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 am and are welcome to "come and go" until 12 pm. Volunteers are asked to bring their own water and snacks, gloves, hat and favorite gardening tool.

Spring Native Plant Sale Volunteers Needed!! by Kathy Webster

Our Chapter will have a booth at the Herff Farm Farmer's Market for the three Saturdays preceding our Spring Plant Sale: April 1, 8, and15. We need a few people to staff the booth for the hours of 9:00 to Noon each Saturday. Volunteers will share the benefits of native plants, tell about our plant sale, provide information about PGARP, and promote membership in NPSOT. There will be promotional materials to give away such as seed catalogs, rack cards, and hopefully seed packets. Please email Kathy Webster to volunteer for staffing the booth on any one of the dates: <u>katweb59@gmail.com</u>.

The Spring Plant Sale is Saturday, April 22. We will need volunteers on Friday, April 21 throughout the morning to help unload the plants brought by growers, set up tables, organize and price the plants, etc. If you can help Friday morning, Friday afternoon, or if you can work during the sale on Saturday, please email Gary Fest with your availability: garyafest@gmail.com.

Thank you, in advance, to all the MANY volunteers who make our Plant Sale such a success each Spring and Fall!

The Boerne Chapter NPSOT along with the Boerne Chamber of Commerce will have a ribbon cutting at 2 pm on Friday, April 21 at the Herff Farm Teaching Barn outside of where the Spring Plant Sale is located. The purpose of the ribbon cutting is to celebrate being a member of the Boerne Chamber and to promote the plant sale. Everyone is invited to come!

Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) by Veronica Hawk

2023!!! This is the eighth year our chapter has presented the Native Landscape Certification Program. This state-wide program began in San Antonio in 2009. The Boerne Chapter continues to help those new to landscape care and those new to our area understand the soil, sun and rain that falls on the hill country and affects the beauty and environmental health around us. On April 1, we taught our 9th Level 1 class and plan to teach the 6 th Level 3 class in October.

The NLCP steering committee is currently revising Level 3 to include current information about the installation and maintenance of a native landscape in gardens from the front porch to the 'e.back 40'. Please join us in spreading the word about these classes, help to teach them or introduce this program to any group, school or organization responsible for land care.

April 1 - Level 1 at Herff Farm Gathering Hall.

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 <u>veronica.hawk@gmail.com</u>.

Pollinator Garden Assistance & Recognition Program by Rachel Thompson

The Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program (PGARP) is now in its sixth year of providing free, on-site advice to property owners wanting to garden for pollinators with native plants. Since the first consult in July, 2018, we have done 110 consults and recognized 20 properties as "Pollinator Champions", including those of many NPSOT members. We have consulted on patio homes, large estates, schools, businesses on Main Street, and most recently, property for a planned solar panel farm and a golf course. Recognition signs have been presented to owners of residences and businesses, schools, and county and city facilities. Our program is unique to the hill country area, primarily Kerr, Gillespie, and Kendall counties, because of the association of the Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter and the three local NPSOT chapters in starting the program. We decline requests for consults outside of the area, but we offer assistance to chapters wanting to start a similar program.

For newcomers to the area and/or native plants, let us help you choose the right plants for your location. For long-time residents/native plant gardeners, let us assess your garden for a recognition sign. And if you would like to participate in the consultations, please join us.

To request a consult or recognition, go to txmn.org/hillcountry/pgarp Questions? Contact Rachel Thompson rjat@alumni.rice.edu



Second Saturday by Veronica Hawk

Thanks to This group and Theresa for coming out and getting lots of work done! We cut back dead material and cleaned up. More information about Second Saturday work days, what we have done and plant ID will be kept in the volunteer book at the Cibolo



It's Growing in My Yard, But What about Tomorrow? by Delmar Cain

In 2012 I noticed frass (caterpillar turds) on a rock near our driveway. Upon inspecting the foliage above the accumulation of black "peppercorns," I found an odd-looking caterpillar with dozens of paddle-like setae on a live oak limb, photographed it and sent it to friends. Wilt Shaw sent it to Molly Keck in the Extension Service, who suggested that we send it to David Wagner, a caterpillar expert, for identification.

Wagner called me at home and told me to collect the caterpillar because it had never been photographed before and to take a photography course if I wanted take more photographs of caterpillars. I couldn't find the caterpillar, but Wilt Shaw and I did take a photography course.

Eleven years later it is ironic in the extreme to find my name in *The New Yorker* in an article by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Elizabeth Kolbert (for "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History"), writing about Wagner.

The article, "The Little-Known World of Caterpillars," (*The New Yorker*, March 13, 2023), is about Wagner's drive to further our knowledge about the early stages of moths and specifically about the most active part of that cycle, the eating and growing stage of caterpillars. Other than to tell you to read it and enjoy it, I will not attempt to introduce her wonderful article.

But, please don't stop reading Kolbert's entomological missive until the last period because all is not well in the world of insects....nature could use your help.

After that rough and bumpy beginning in 2012, Dave became my instructor, my mentor and a good friend. After sending graduate student scouts to check out our property, he has spent many nights at our home enroute to other areas in the Hill Country and in South and West Texas for field work. Never one to waste a collection opportunity, he has discovered on our property three species of moths that have never been scientifically described. He has also found and photographed the caterpillars for moths that were described but the larvae were unknown.

With his help and encouragement, I have participated in helping him rear moths from eggs to adults, from captured larva to adults, and from adults through the full life cycle to adults. I have also helped in collecting adult specimens which were necessary in barcoding and other identification matters.

Just as Dave has numerous inquiring minds and helpers throughout his travels, I have been fortunate to have generous help from many friends. Donna Taylor, Emily Green and Wilt Shaw have helped in locating caterpillars and in keeping an eye on the nurseries of larvae and pupae, when my wife, Ann, and I traveled. Patty Pasztor, Marvin Hatter, Chuck Janzow, Ysmael Espinosa, Gary Fest, Cathy Downs, Jason Singhurst, Bill Carr, Craig Hensley, Stuart Brown and Michael Eason have been readily available to help me locate plants that Dave had an interest in checking for moth larvae or eggs. Tom Riordan and Rheda Boardman have helped in locating caterpillars and eggs at ABK State Natural Area, with the understanding supervision of James Rice, the superintendent.

I will close with this parting advice: Don't ignore the frass! It might be directing you to somewhere worthwhile.



David Wagner with Donna Taylor, Anne Adams and Ben Eldredge taken at the CNC April 21, 2014.

David Wagner taken at Cain residence on April 27, 2022.

David Wagner with Elizabeth Kolbert and Wilt Shaw taken on Highway 16, west of Helotes on October 25, 2022.

YAY Delmar Cain! Not everyday does a member of the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas get interviewed for an article in The New Yorker. See the March 20th Issue of The New Yorker for the full article. <u>http://The Little-Known World of</u> <u>Caterpillars | The New Yorker</u>

"Here Comes Peter Cottontail--Please Fence Your Gardens"

The menu for April meeting is Baked Glazed Ham served with Cauliflower/Lettuce Salad and Scalloped Potatoes. People who signed up to bring sweets and Savory dishes or to help with set-up will be receiving an e-mail from Gary Rogers on or around Sunday April 2nd.



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

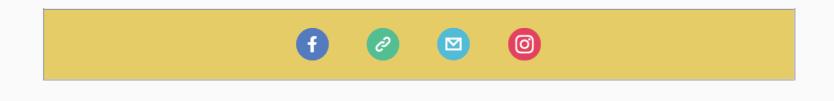
NICE! Plant of the Month April American Beautyberry



Photos taken by Sally and Andy Wasowski and Lynn Pyle

For more information about April NICE! Plant of the Month, click here

Big thank you to all of the contributors to the April 2023 newsletter!



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

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