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Boerne Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, April 4

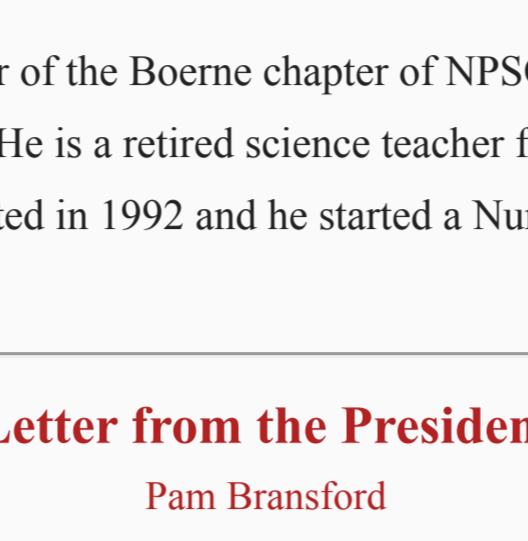
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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, and 15.

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.

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.

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.

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'.

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.

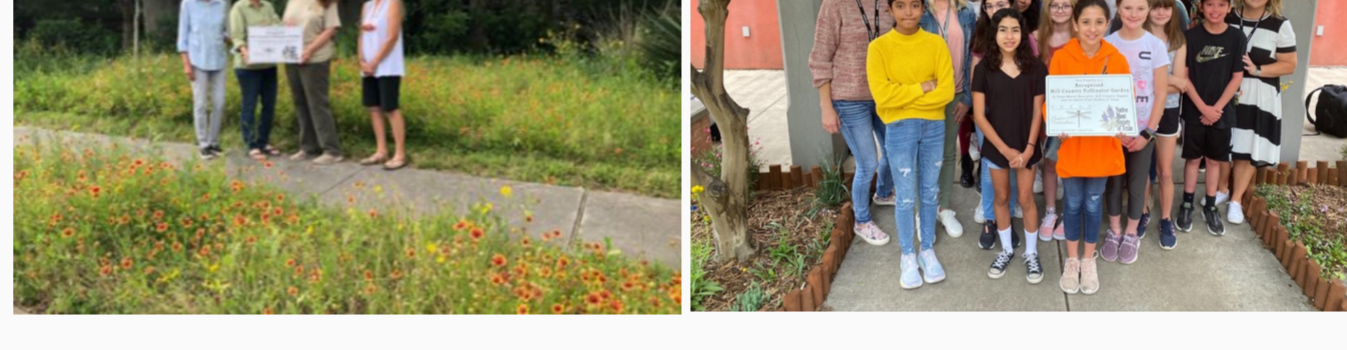
Pollinator Garden Assistance & Recognition Program

by Rachel Thompson

The Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program (PGARF) is now in its sixth year of providing free, on-site advice to property owners wanting to garden for pollinators with native plants.

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.

To request a consult or recognition, go to txrnm.org/hillcountry/pgarf 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 Center for Conservation visitors center.



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.

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.

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.

With his help and encouragement, I have participated in helping him rear moths from eggs 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. Patsy 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 moths larvae or eggs.

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

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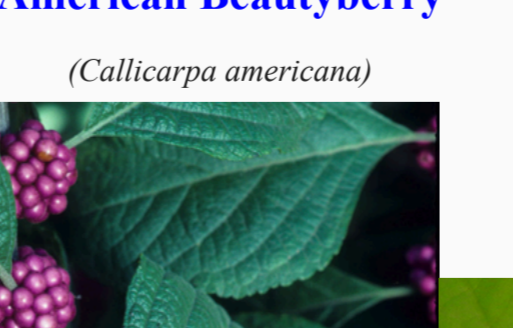
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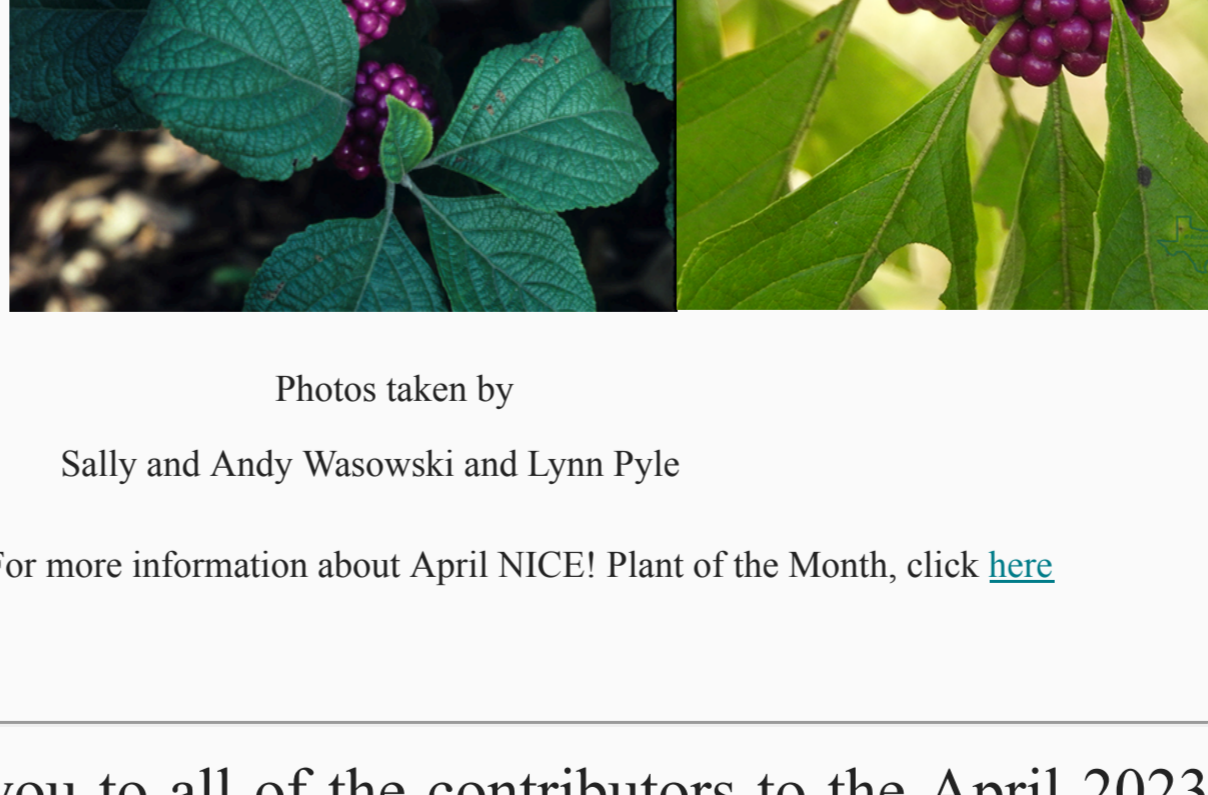
(Natives Instead of Common Exotics)

(Natives Improve and Conserve Environments)

NICE! Plant of the Month April

American Beautyberry

(Callicarpa americana)



Photos taken by Sally and Andy Wasowski and Lynn Pyle

For more information about April NICE! Plant 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

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

