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Boerne Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, May 2

Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium

6:00 - 6:45 pm - Check-in & Hospitality

6:45 pm - Announcements

7 - 8 pm - Program

Fireflies of Central Texas

Join Cibolo Nature Center's, Ben Pfeiffer as he discusses fireflies and their disappearing habit. Learn about the different types of fireflies; why they are disappearing; and to how restore and create firefly habitats. Ben is the local expert on Texas Fireflies.

Want to learn more about fireflies? Immediately after the chapter meeting, Ben is leading a firefly walk around the Cibolo grounds. He will provide specimen vials for participants to aid his research. Participants should wear appropriate clothing and it is suggested that they include a red or blue filter for their flashlights.

Ben is a recognized firefly researcher and a Texas master naturalist with a B.S. in Biology from Texas State University in San Marcos. He is currently a member of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature).

Letter from the President

Pam Bransford

Dear Members,

Congratulations to the Plant Sale Committee on holding another wildly successful native plant sale! Special recognition goes to all of our member growers for their tender loving care of all those native plants. Did you know that until 4 years ago, we would purchase many of the native plants from wholesale nurseries for an annual sale? But in the last couple of years interest has blossomed among our membership to grow the plants in our own back yards and amazingly there are enough plants to support 2 native plant sales each year. If you are interested in becoming a native plant grower, please seek out other chapter members for tips and suggestions.

The executive board is in the process of identifying board positions and committee chair vacancies for next year (beginning October 1). Being a chapter leader is not only rewarding in the sense that we accomplish so much as a team, but we have a good time too! We already know we are going to need people to step up to fill some key positions. More on that topic later.

Our Boerne Chapter is experiencing a growth spurt and we are delighted that so many new members have joined us! There are lots of fun activities to be involved in so you learn first hand about native plants and their benefits. Don't hesitate to ask questions and get those hands a bit dirty.

Mark Your Calendar

May 2 (Tuesday) - Chapter Meeting. "Fireflies of Central Texas" by Ben Pfeiffer. 6 - 8 pm. Firefly walk immediately after the chapter meeting with Ben.

May 10 (Wednesday) - Pollinator Champion sign presentation at Herff Elementary, 3:30 p.m.

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.

May 16 (Tuesday) - At 9 a.m., behind the Patrick Heath Public Library (BCCNA). Come and join the Boerne High School Seniors as they help us clean up this newly designated nature area. Tasks include stacking brush, removing trash, identifying and removing small exotic invasive plants, identifying and marking important native plants that need caging, and planting grasses in the riparian areas.

May 19 (Friday) - Pollinator Champion sign presentation at Crestmont Wealth Management office, 604 S. Main at 1:30 pm. This event will be with their Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting and a presentation from the Historical Society.

October 14 - (Saturday) Level 3 Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) at Cibolo Nature Center. For more information about the NLCP or to volunteer, please contact Veronica Hawk at veronica.hawk@gmail.com.

Spring Native Plant Sale

Kathy Webster

The Spring Native Plant Sale was announced on Friday with a Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting at Herff Farm. The ceremony was well attended by Chapter and Chamber members. Boerne Chapter President Pamela Bransford wielded the large scissors and cut the ribbon as cameras were rolling and a video was created to explain the Boerne Chapter's purpose and activities. On Saturday April 22, the Sale was a big success with the benefit of blue skies and pleasant temps. There were approximately 600 plants and 86 species for shoppers to choose from and plenty of NPSOT volunteers on hand both Friday and Saturday.

Brenda Fest put on a butterfly demonstration that drew the interest of children and their parents. When the sale was over, there were about 30-40 plants remaining. Sherry from the Cibolo Center for Conservation was happy to take the remaining plants as a donation. She stated that they would be used in pollinator gardens and native plant education programs at schools. She specifically mentioned a project at the Meadowlands campus that is coming up next week.



Ribbon Cutting

Early Risers

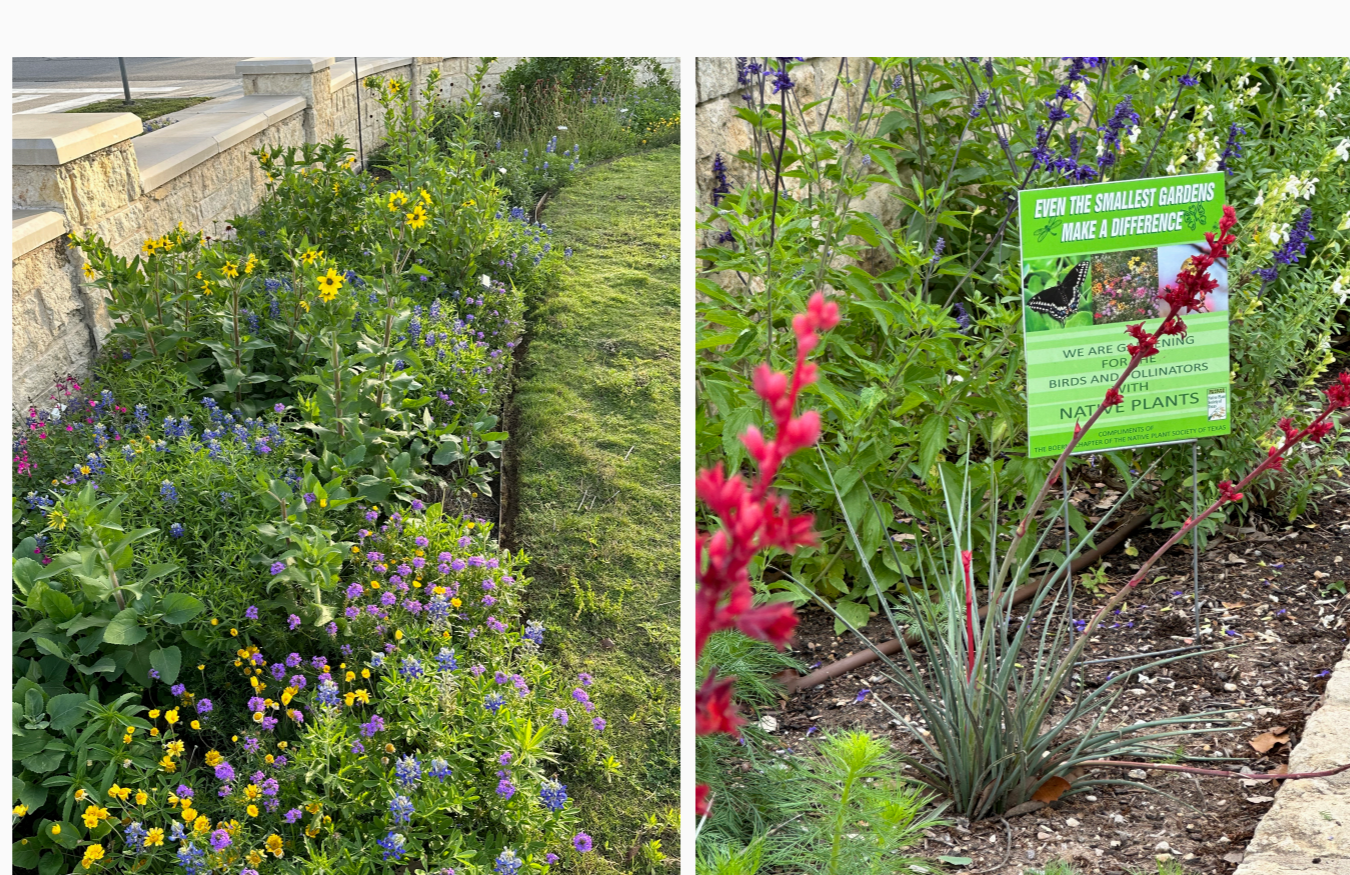
Making Sales

THANK YOU to all our Chapter members who grew plants for the sale and those who worked on Friday or Saturday.

Main Street Pollinator Gardens

Rachel Thompson

Our pollinator gardens are thriving along Main Street. Besides being beautiful, they supplied gayfeather and standing cypress for the plant sale. Join the gardeners on Wednesday mornings to help care for them!



Boerne Visitors Center

Veterans Plaza

Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP)

If you have been a member of NPSOT for any amount of time, you know Kathy Ward and the influence that she has had on our chapter. In 2006, the San Antonio Chapter of NPSOT developed the Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) that is now a statewide, 4 course opportunity to learn native landscapes and how to identify plants specific to an eco-region. Kathy was involved with NLCP from the beginning, then helped to develop the Level 2, "Landscape design with Native Plants", first offered in 2012. In 2015, Kathy pulled together a small group of chapter members to begin the development of NLCP for Boerne. Each of the first three levels has a unique list of 45 native and 5 non-native invasive plants.

By the spring of 2023, 16 NLCP classes have been held in Boerne and now Kathy is developing the fourth level, "Stewardship of Native Plant Communities". In this class, students learn the value and practice of land stewardship, with an emphasis on neighborhoods and public greenspaces, how to create a land stewardship plan and use research, assessment and other tools to manage and steward local natural areas, large or small. This is a standalone class for those interested in conservation and not landscaping, so Level One is not a prerequisite. Kathy has been instrumental in acquiring knowledge about the Cibolo Nature Center so that this unique place can be used as an example with its many native plant communities. With Kathy's help, we may be able to preserve and restore Boerne's native habitats, as so much of the area has been developed.

Boerne Chapter Meeting Celebration

Its Going to be Castanets and Maracas!

The May Chapter meeting theme is "Celebrate Cinco de Mayo a little early". The menu is *Margarheadas* made from the Tunis syrup (the fruits of the Prickly Pear Cactus grown on the Brown ranch) along with tostadas (beef and chicken) Mexican rice, and vegetarian beans. Volunteer members will be notified on April 29 or 30 for their specific side dish or dessert.

Garden Tools Galore!

A special thank you to Garden Tools Co., of Kerrville, Texas. When reaching out to different companies and asking for their assistance in the Boerne Chapter's fundraising efforts, the Garden Tool Co., was the first company to step forward with not one but two sets of high quality, for *your lifetime* garden tools.

The first set to be raffled will be the *Sneeboers*. These tools are made in the Netherlands and each tool has been hand-forged from the highest quality stainless steel for more than 100 years!



For more information about the Garden Tool Co., go to their website: <http://www.gardentoolcompany.com>



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

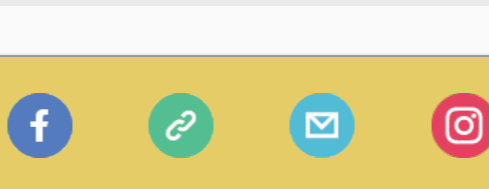
NICE! Plant of the Month May Mexican Sapindaceae

Monilla Sapindaceae



Photos taken by Ray Mathews, Sally and Andy Wasowski, Melody Lytle, and Joseph A. Marc

For more information about May NICE! Plant of the Month, click [here](#)
Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter.



Our mailing address is:
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