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November 2023 Newsletter

Boerne Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas
Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, November 7
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium
6:00 - 6:45 pm Check-in & Pot Luck Dinner*
6:45 - 8:00 pm Announcements/Presentation
8 pm Clean up*

Please bring a dish to share. Volunteers will be needed to help with set up and clean up of the auditorium.

"How to Properly Prune and Plant a Containerized Tree"
Presented by: David M.Vaughan

Mr. Vaughan has been an arborist in San Antonio since 1978. He is a certified expert in managing Texas Oak Wilt and is the owner and consulting arborist of ArborVaughan Consult, LLC. He is among the first group of 20 arborists certified in Texas, and is a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists.

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the honor and privilege of being the Boerne Chapter's president *again.* It is wonderful being with like-minded friends who love talking about native plants and want to spread the good news about native plants and pollinators to the Texas Hill Country.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) Level 3 Class taught by members of our own Boerne Chapter.

If you want to "up your game" and increase your knowledge about native plants and landscaping, the NLCP classes do not disappoint! In fact, I started applying the information I learned about pruning trees from Gary Fest's presentation as soon as I got home!

By the way, an NLCP certification designation can be used on your business cards and is actually an honor and an impressive professional designation.

Big round of applause for Brenda and Gary Fest, Veronica Hawk, Sharon and Ed Noack and Jane Hunter for putting together such a professional and well planned program.

And a big shout out to Bill Magner! Bill is the new VP of programs and he invited the speakers from the Central Texas Mycology Society to speak to us at the October Chapter meeting. Who knew mushrooms play such an important role in our natural habitat and health?

And last but not least, happy trails to Nancy and Ron Scoggins. They are moving to Oklahoma. This wonderful couple has been a mainstay of both the Hill Country Texas Master Naturalist and the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas for many years. They will be missed. Oklahoma's gain, Texas' loss.

Dates to Remember

Saturday, Nov. 4 - Daylight Savings Time, Fall "backward"
Set clocks back one hour @ midnight

Tuesday, Nov. 7 - Chapter Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner
Cibolo Nature Center auditorium

Saturday, Nov. 11 - Second Saturday at Cibolo Nature Center
from 9 - Noon with Veronica Hawk

Tuesday, Nov. 21 - Boerne Chapter NPSOT Board Meeting
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium @ 5 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 5 - Chapter Christmas Dinner
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium @ 6 pm

Fall Plant Sale

by *Kathy Webster*

The Fall Native Plant Sale took place on Saturday, Oct 21 with a record-breaking 679 native plants (eighty-six distinct species) provided by 22 growers -- all Boerne Chapter members!

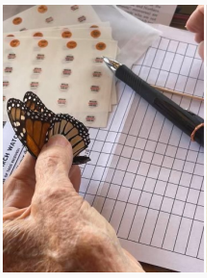
On Friday, Oct 20 from 3:00-6:00 p.m., was the members only sale (Cibolo Nature Center and NPSOT). An estimated 1/3 of the plants were sold during the pre-sale with a very nice variety and wide selection remaining when the sale opened to the public on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Unfortunately, the foot traffic at the Farmer's Market was light and we didn't have the volume of customers that we had at the Spring Sale. When the sale closed at 1:00 p.m., an estimated 150 plants remained. We considered selling them to a native plant nursery, such as Pollinatives in San Antonio, but the situation is complicated by the fact that we have already used our two days per year to sell items tax free (the Spring Sale date and the Fall Sale date). So the Board voted to return the plants to growers, or at least give them first right of refusal. Growers may claim their plants or donate them to NPSOT projects. For example, Veronica would like some of them for "Bill's Garden." Theresa may want some for the butterfly garden, and Rachel may want some of them for the Boerne City Campus Natural Area or Main Street pollinator gardens.

A BIG thank you to all the volunteers who worked at the sale setup on Friday morning, the pre-sale on Friday afternoon, and/or the public sale on Saturday. Our growers also deserve special recognition for raising 679 beautiful plants despite the severe drought and summer heat. Way to go, NPSOT members!!

Monarch Tagging

A Monarch tagging demonstration was conducted by Chapter member, Brenda Fest at the Fall Native Plant Sale on Oct 21. Brenda explained the Monarch migration process and the citizen science program that includes capture, tagging, and release of individual butterflies. Brenda maintains a record of each butterfly she tags, showing its gender along with the time and place of its tagging.



Texas Sunflowers in Wisconsin

Larry Walther who is a Boerne Chapter NPSOT member *and* a professional photographer donated one of his photos printed on canvas to be sold at the Fall Plant Sale. The beautiful sunflower print was purchased by Kari Brekke of Wisconsin who stopped by the sale with her sister, Karla Marchell of Boerne.

Thank you Larry for your continued support of the Boerne Chapter with your beautiful donations.

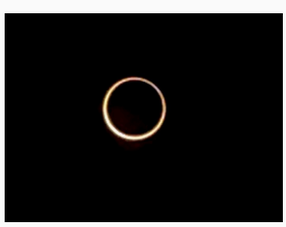
The Native Plant Certification Program (NLCP) Level 3 - Eclipsed

by *Veronica Hawk*

The Native Landscape Certification Program Level 3 was held at the Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium on Saturday, October 14, 2023. This was the first Level 3 class (revised version) which covers more subjects focusing on healthy native landscapes. Soil health is an important aspect of all environments. The class covered alternatives to chemicals typically added to garden soils.

Fourteen students attended and enjoyed the class and the location. Ed Noack, Gary Fest, Brenda Fest and Veronica Hawk instructed and Jane Hunter and Sharon Noack volunteered to help with refreshments. During the class, Veronica and Gary took students for a Plant Walk through the demonstration gardens making time to stop and observe the annular eclipse. What better way to enjoy the gardens and the eclipse than with like-minded individuals.

Gary Fest discussing proper pruning of shrub and trees.



Annular Eclipse, photographed with a special lens.

What does it take to Plant Fifty Trees?

Two Days, Twenty-six Volunteers, Five Hundred Feet of Fencing and Eighty T-posts!!!

by *Rachel Thompson*

Despite the rain on Thursday and Friday, October 26 and 27, the fifty trees received from the Apache Corporation tree grant program for the Boerne City Campus Natural Area (BCCNA) have been planted and caged. The ground was a bit muddy but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of our volunteers.

Earlier in the week the City of Boerne and Terry Lashley had prepared carefully selected areas for planting. On Thursday, volunteers dug the holes for the trees, then pounded in T- posts and put up the wire fencing to protect the trees from deer.

Early Friday morning City Parks personnel delivered the trees to BCCNA (located between Patrick Heath Library and Old Number Nine Trail) from a protected area at Northrup Park where they had been held since delivery by the Apache Corporation team.

After a brief discussion on "how to plant a tree", the volunteers planted five trees in each of the ten plots. The species planted were flameleaf sumac, yaupon holly, possumhaw holly, roughleaf dogwood, American beautyberry, Texas redbud, Mexican plum, red mulberry, Mexican buckeye, and Carolina buckthorn.

Mulch from the City of Boerne was then spread around the trees with wildflower seeds being scattered within the enclosed area. When needed, watering will be done by volunteers using water hoses that come from a single faucet installed on the property by Parks Department.

Many thanks for the hard work done by our enthusiastic volunteers from the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, the Alamo Area and Hill Country Chapters of the Texas Master Naturalist and for our partners at the City of Boerne.

This project is another step towards transforming the area into a "biodiversity regenerator, air+water cleaner, carbon storer, bird feeder, rainwater capturer, pest+flood controller, and nature connector", and it won't happen without us!*

P.S. If you would like to volunteer to adopt a plot of trees to water, please contact Rachel Thompson (rjat@alumni.rice.edu).

***From Homegrown National Park Facebook page, September 26, 2023.**

Demonstration & Butterfly Gardens

by *Theresa Butler*

The next second Saturday workday in the Demonstration & Butterfly Garden will be held on Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 - Noon, we'll be weeding, cleaning and planning. Presently, we are planning to install two water gardens in Bill's Garden, so if you really want to get your hands dirty or have a new shovel you want to test, we need volunteers.

Speaking of plants! If you have *any* native, shade loving, water liking plants that you did not donate to the Fall Native Plant sale, we would love to have you donate them to the demonstration gardens. Just in case you do not have any shade loving plants to donate, we can always use any native, sun loving plants for the berm and the area east of the staff road. Additionally, we are in need of another spicebush or walnut tree to replace the ones that did not survive the drought. If you happen to have any 4' fencing you are not using, we can take that too!

Come and visit the butterfly and demonstration gardens, they look especially good after this bit of wonderful rain.

If you have any questions about Second Saturday at Cibolo Nature Center or would like to donate native plants, fencing and/or your time. Please email Veronica.hawk@gmail.com.

MEDINA GARDENS NURSERY NEEDS OUR HELP!!!

Many of you in the Hill Country are familiar with the Medina Gardens Nursery in Medina. What a wonderful place to find natives of all sorts for our gardens at home. Ernesto and Ishmael have been friends of the Native Plant Society and Texas Master Naturalist for years. They help us out when we have plant sales and even have made donations for door prizes to help us. They know and support our mission.

Now, they need our help. Ernesto's health has declined dramatically over the last year. Ishmael did a lot of work outside of the nursery, but now finds that in order to keep it running, he has to be there all the time. He is taking care of Ernesto and the nursery! The drought and heat were especially tough on the nursery with many plants being moved into the shade to keep them alive. Watering has been and still is a big issue.

Many members of the Hill Country Texas Master Naturalist chapter and the local Native Plant Societies have volunteered their time to help Medina Gardens. However, more help is still needed. We are looking for more volunteers to help with watering, weeding, transplanting, culling and staking, as well as, assistance with re-organizing areas of the nursery.

Before heading out to Medina please know, that when you go is mostly up to you and checking in with Lisa Flanagan is recommended. Also, for the TMN, you would be volunteering your personal time as this is NOT a TMN project that can earn hours on VMS because it is a for profit business.

To volunteer, please contact Lisa Flanagan at 830-928-2080. Her email is terlinguagirl@gmail.com (please put Medina Gardens in the subject line). Lisa will share information with you on what is needed. Medina Garden Nursery is located at 13417 TX-16, Medina, TX 78055. Lisa is looking forward to hearing from you!

Happy Trails...

Time to say adios, best wishes to our good friends Nancy and Ron Scoggins. They are off on a new adventure to Oklahoma!

Thank you for the many laughs and wonderful times you have shared with us. Just want you to know that you will be missed...a lot! And you can always come back!

Contacts for Media Postings

Boerne NPSOT - Website – Theresa Butler, theresabutler722@gmail.com, Mackenzie Brown, mbrown@trinity.edu
Boerne NPSOT - Newsletter – Lorraine Popp, llpopp4@gmail.com, Felicia Zeitman, fzbranek@gmail.com
Boerne NPSOT - Facebook & Instagram - Sue Roddy, sueroddy23@gmail.com
Hill Country Master Naturalist - Newsletter – Lenore Langsdorf, lenorelangsdorf@gmail.com
Hill Country Master Naturalist - Calendar and ATs – Dale Bransford, jdb.txn@gmail.com
Alamo Master Naturalist – Calendar and AT's – Keely Porter, keeley.porter@gmail.com

Volunteers are needed to come early to the Chapter meeting to help with hospitality and room clean up!

Special thanks to all our contributors.

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

NICE! Plant of the Month November

Arizona Black Walnut

Juglans major

Photographs taken by: Page, Lee, Waitt, Damon E., Bruce Marlin

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

Our mailing address is:
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