

September Meeting

Native Plants for Urban Landscaping

Ricky Linex,
Zone Wildlife Biologist, USDA Natural
Resources Conservation Service,
Weatherford, Texas

Wednesday, September 2, 7 pm

Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram St
(corner of Fielder and Abram)



Fall is here. Native plant sales will soon offer locally grown plants to beautify your yard this fall and next spring. Need help finding the best native plants? If you can't find the plant you want in a nursery gather seed or transplant it from the wild. There are a lot of good native plants waiting to come into your yard or flower bed. Come hear Ricky Linex's talk. Ricky has selected these plants

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Bits & Pieces

More Moth Mania

Okay, here's the grade-school version: Every yucca species is pollinated by its own special kind of yucca moth. The moth requires the yucca and vice versa. So today's question is: Do our pale-leaf yuccas at SW Nature Preserve have their own moth pollinator? If so, what is it? If not, how are they reproducing?

The one wide-ranging yucca moth species has been divided into 13 or so newish species but none is listed in Tarrant County.

Shouldn't this be easy? Are they blooming now? Where's my net?



Today's Inspirational Moment



Like music and art,
love of nature
is a common language
that can transcend
political or social
boundaries.

Jimmy Carter

The Bad & the Good

The Bad: Once again it's time to Just Say No to Neil Sperry. For lovely green turf this fall, winter, and spring, Neil says emphatically that it's time right now to apply pre-emergent weed killers. Don't delay — get your Halts, Dimension, Team, Balan, or Gallery product immediately and look up the environmental and health effects later. Oh, and don't bother with organic alternatives; Neil finds that corn gluten meal is ineffective and expensive.

The Good: The Native Plant Society fall plant sale will be held on Saturday, October 3 from 10:00 till 2:00 at the Pavilion in Randol Mill Park. Put away that spreader, forget about Neil, and get yourself to the park for some good buys on great plants that Neil would never consider.



From the President **Danny Kocurek**



EPA Drilling Rules

I find it incredibly difficult to follow the EPA's proposed rule changes that were released last month. However, the fact that they

are being fought so vigorously by the oil and gas drillers is surely a good sign that they have some merit.

I have never understood why these drillers are allowed to waste our precious natural gas by venting or burning it directly into the atmosphere. There is a limited amount of gas available and it would be nice to leave some of it to our children. It also strikes me as strange that they let a large percentage of gas leak out of their pipelines. And we wonder why these companies keep going bankrupt. The new rules will try to prevent these and other wasteful practices.

Although the proposed rules leave a lot of room for improvement if we really want to avoid bankrupt-

ing our children, it is nice to see common sense from the government for a change. The federal government, that is. I'm sure our governor will now spend our tax dollars losing even more lawsuits against the EPA.



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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve Photos by Wes Miller



Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

Gator Bags All the Rage with Hip Young Trees

What side of the road do Texans drive on? The shady side! That goes for walkers, too.

You know you're in Texas if you search for shade to block the summer sun. After wildscape walkers praised the cool path from the parking lot, Molly Hollar waved her magic wand and a group of super volunteers planted four additional cherry laurel trees to continue the shady walk down to the vehicle bridge and into the sanctuary.

Cherry laurels grow quickly, reaching a mature height of 15-20 feet (can reach 40). Their dense shade is a welcome relief and provides some winter green in a deciduous post oak forest. Like all natives, cherry laurels are drought tolerant *once they are established*. Plant in the fall for best root growth before the stress of summer. Winter and spring rains reduce the need for supplemental watering.

But in the wildscape, planting happens when the opportunity arises. This year the four young cherry laurels were ready to make their debut out of season. Tree huggers Callie Mitchell, Peggy Quinn, Joe Martinez, and Josephine Keeney (*left to right, below*) had raised the trees at the greenhouse and planted them one day in mid-August.



Volunteers will make sure the trees get all the water they need with the use of gator bags. If you have missed this new fashion trend, gator bags are the

latest and greatest in drip irrigation. One bag delivers 20 gallons of water around the root base over four to six hours, and the bags can be zipped together for wider coverage. The trunk and leaves stay dry.

"Water a tree once a week to survive and twice to thrive," says board-certified Master Arborist Danny Wright. If it has not rained in seven days, fill that gator bag. Trees need to be watered to a depth of 12 inches each time. Make yourself a tool that will penetrate to a foot and keep it handy. Think of Benjamin Franklin and don't let your tree die for want of a nail!



Danny recommends watering around the bag's perimeter until the water soaks into the ground and runs off freely three times. Then fill the bag through the slit in the top (not inside next to the trunk) and water thoroughly around the base one more time. Soaking outside the bag prevents the dry surrounding soil from wicking away the moisture meant for the roots.

Why not just turn on the sprinklers? Because watering on a bright day of 80 degrees or more burns the foliage. Droplets on the leaves act as tiny magnifying glasses, intensifying the heat until the leaves shrivel and die. Gator bags are a much better option.

One recent Friday, while resting and snacking after watering around and fill-



ing gator bags, Molly and crew met Kelly Flannegan and her little dog, Buster. Even though Kelly lives in Mansfield, she has brought Buster to walk in the wildscape for years. Not only does she enjoy the atmosphere, but she takes pictures of plants that attract her. She gives them whimsical names and posts the photos to Instagram for identification help. Anyone know what a purple bee sucker flower is? Ah, that's a violet ruellia, just one of the many natives Kelly learned about at the wildscape.

Molly suggested Kelly visit the Molly Hollar Wildscape website, possibly join NPSOT and consider taking Master Gardener classes. Nothing is more satisfying than to hear that the wildscape is fulfilling its mission: "To educate the community to use native plants to conserve resources, attract wildlife and connect with nature."



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from his 2014, 345 page, color picture filled book titled *Range Plants of North Central Texas-A Land User's Guide to Their Identification, Value and Management*. You will have the opportunity to purchase the book for \$20 and get it signed following the presentation. The book is not available through Amazon or any major publisher, so the price could be kept very reasonable at \$20 cash. No credit/debit cards will be accepted, bring cash or a check to the meeting. Online sales are available through BRIT <http://shop.brit.org/collections/all-titles/products/range-plants> and Native American Seed http://www.seedsource.com/catalog/detail.asp?product_id=6069

What others are saying about this book:

This book is more than just another plant identification book. It also contains good, relevant and practical information on the values and management of each species. It is more of a manual or handbook rather than an ordinary field guide. Landowners will become especially fond of the book, which contains useful information about grazing value, wildlife value and management tips.

Ricky Linex is a country-boy botanist and a skilled professional all wrapped up in one big package. He has made the study of plants his passion for the past 30 years. A genuine land steward will combine his knowledge of the land with an

appreciation and respect for the land. This book helps to stimulate the reader to develop and deepen what Aldo Leopold called a "land ethic".

- Steve Nelle, San Angelo TX

Ricky Linex is the Zone Wildlife Biologist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Weatherford, Texas. He has been serving 51 North Central Texas counties in this position for the past 12 years. His 33-year career with NRCS has largely been in West Texas working in Goldthwaite, Snyder and Abilene before moving to Weatherford. Ricky is a 1981 graduate of Texas Tech University with expertise in range and wildlife habitat management.

THE MAYFLIES

What calls them, the mayflies,
To fill the air with their dance
Of death and life?

Their slender bodies
Drift across the lake
And pile upon the ground beneath our light
Like a golden snowfall.

One force draws them from the water's edge
Into the hostile night . . .
A force that spends a million lives
That some survive to breed a million more,
A force that makes me flush within your arms
And know that wisdom's not what we are
for.

John I. Blair 10/12/78

Photo of the Month

Based on your consistent response, this may well be the last P of the M. But on the bright side, at least we're leaving (maybe) on a high note.



My Take on Proposition 6 *Grace Darling*

The following essay is compiled from various Internet and printed sources, as identified below.

On November 3, Texas voters will be deciding whether to approve a number of amendments to the state constitution. One of these proposed amendments, Proposition 6, calls for "recognizing the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife subject to laws that promote wildlife conservation." This is what all of us should know about it before we go to the ballot box.

Hunting and Fishing a Constitutional Right?

(2008 *State Legislatures* article)

Sportsmen in many states increasingly feel as if they are the ones outside the duck blind, and they are turning to state constitutions to ensure their hallowed pastime will continue in perpetuity. Increasing urbanization, decreased habitat, declining numbers of sportsmen, and more restrictions on hunting are common factors in the quest to assert the right to hunt and fish in a state's most basic and difficult-to-amend document. On land that has been traditionally open to sportsmen, development of farmland and forests, along with pressure from other recreational groups such as hikers and off-road vehicles, is putting the pinch on the available land for harvesting game and fish.

Well-organized animal rights groups and limitations on methods, seasons and bag limits for certain game species have provoked many hunter advocacy groups to lobby for hunting and fishing as a right, and their call is being heard in statehouses across the country. Twenty-two states, including 12 in 2008 alone, have introduced legislation or ballot measures on this issue, with Oklahoma and Tennessee's measures passing in 2008 and Oklahoma's

headed to the ballot in November (it later passed).

Opponents state that these provisions clutter a constitution and overstate the threat to these activities, while possibly limiting or increasing the amount and severity of restrictions that can be placed on sportsmen activities. The Humane Society states, "The constitution should guarantee fundamental democratic rights, not provide protection for a recreational pastime." Some states, such as Florida, have inserted the right to hunt and fish into state statutes, but have not taken the more drastic step of embedding it in the state constitution. The road to changing the constitution often goes through legislatures, with legislators typically introducing resolutions to ask the voters to approve changes.

Eighteen states guarantee the right to hunt and fish in their constitutions, with 17 of those approved via the voters. While Vermont's language dates back to 1777, the rest of these constitutional provisions—in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming—have passed since 1996. California and Rhode Island have language in their respective constitutions guaranteeing the right to fish, but not to hunt. Advocates also consider Alaska's constitutional language—"Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use"—as meeting the test because of its strong case law history.

2015 Update

(Douglas Shinkle, www.NCSL.org, 3/26/2015)

Currently 9 states—Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey,

New York, Oregon and Texas — are debating bills that would add a constitutional right to hunt and fish. West Virginia considered two bills, but they both failed.

The Texas Right to Hunt, Fish and Harvest Amendment, Proposition 6, is on the November 3, 2015 ballot in Texas as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment. The measure, upon voter approval, would provide for a right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife, including by the use of "traditional methods." The measure would also designate hunting and fishing as "preferred methods of managing and controlling wildlife."

The proposal contains language about what the amendment cannot be construed to mean. The right to hunt, fish and harvest does not affect current laws related to trespass, eminent domain or property rights, nor does the right affect the legislature's power to authorize municipalities to regulate firearm discharge in populated areas. The amendment's approval by voters would make Texas the 19th state to enact a constitutional right to hunt and fish, and the eighth state to do so during the 2010s.

Arguments in support of the amendment included the following:

Chris W. Cox, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action:

Adoption of the Right to Hunt and Fish amendment will safeguard the hunters and anglers of Texas from extreme animal rights groups dedicated to abolishing America's outdoor tradition. This important constitutional safeguard will protect wildlife and promote conservation.

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Ben Carter, Executive Director of the Dallas Safari Club:

Well-funded animal rights and anti-hunting organizations are chipping away at hunting and fishing. Publicity stunts, frivolous lawsuits, exploiting the Endangered Species Act, misleading petitions and ballot initiatives backed by millions of dollars in emotional advertising are the tools of their trade. ...

65,000 Texas jobs are supported by hunting and fishing, more than Dell, the University of Texas-Austin and MD Anderson Cancer Center combined (59,000 jobs).

\$415 million in state and local tax revenue is generated from hunting and fishing in Texas, enough to support the average salaries of 8,100 police officers.

Imagine the impacts if it all went away!

Legislative History

The proposed constitutional amendment was filed by Rep. Brandon Creighton (R-4) as Senate Joint Resolution 22 on January 9, 2015. A two-thirds vote in both chambers of the Texas State Legislature was required to refer this amendment to the ballot. Only the following four legislators voted against it:

Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-13)
Sen. Sylvia Garcia (D-6)
Sen. Jose R. Rodriguez (D-29)
Rep. Borris Miles (D-146)

Misleading Terminology

Mallika Rao, *Huffington Post* 7/31/15: George Orwell once wrote that political language "is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable." The same could be said of the language of the hunter:

I had no idea that the lion I took was a known, local favorite, was collared and part of a study until the end of the hunt ... I deeply regret that my pursuit of an activity I love and practice respon-



sibly and legally resulted in the taking of this lion.

The words above come from Walter Palmer, arguably the world's most infamous dentist. He sent them to patients in a two-pronged letter. In it, he apologizes for his killing of Cecil the Lion -- a beloved African male with a black mane and scientific significance — and for the "disruption" the illegal kill caused Palmer's now shuttered Minnesota practice, River Bluff Dental.

Critics point out his words ring as more contrite about the latter crisis than the former. What some are calling Palmer's non-apology for the death of Cecil uses the obtuse and passive word-play characteristic of the shadiest mea culpas in American history, from Ulysses S. Grant's to Donald Sterling's. He paints Cecil's death as an outlier, insisting throughout his email that the hunt was sold to him as "legal" and "responsible." Not once does he question the frailty of those terms in an industry reliant on players in impoverished countries (grotesque amounts of poaching are de rigeur in Zimbabwe, as any seasoned hunter knows).

But his most egregious abuse of the English language is his smallest: that little verb, "to take." Used commonly

among hunters, the euphemism reveals a culture of Orwellian doublespeak prevalent throughout the hunting world, meant to assuage critics and lure the conflicted curious.

Why We Should Vote NO on Proposition 6

Grace Darling, 8/22/15:

Now, let us all remember that the right to hunt and fish in Texas is in no way threatened. Like illegal immigration, voter fraud, Reagan's welfare queens, Obamacare's death panels, and other political bugaboos, these are specters raised by right-wing extremists to try to limit checks on their behavior and scare you into giving them unobstructed access to whatever they want. Regulations meant to safeguard the public and protect us from corporate greed are painted as hurtful to the economy, jobs losers, and bureaucratic bullying; community decisions are held sacrosanct unless the locals want to ban fracking; and open carry of firearms on our streets and campuses is justified "for our safety" despite overwhelming opposition by law enforcement and university officials — professionals we admire highly. Compare this flailing at windmills with the do-nothing approach toward global warming, for which we have ever-increasing, solid scientific evidence. Schizophrenia? Perhaps. Rank hypocrisy? Absolutely.

Don't be taken in. The killing of deer, doves, and fish will still go on in Texas whether or not we enshrine it in the constitution, but a No vote at least gives us hope for a future when wildlife "harvesting" will be repudiated as a funding mechanism for conservation.

Wildscape Fall Native Plant Sale

Sale Features

The sale features a large variety of plant species grown organically at the Greenhouse by Wildscape volunteers, including: Ground Covers, Perennials, Shrubs, Vines and Trees.

- Grown from local seeds
- Better adapted to our climate
- Low requirement for water
- No need for pesticides or fertilizers

When: Saturday, September 26, 2015

Where: Randol Mill Park Greenhouse
1901 W Randol Mill Road
Arlington, TX

Map: See back side.

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Other: See our website for more details, pictures and prices.

www.thewildscape.org



Wild Petunia



Milkweed Vine



Purple Coneflower



Passionflower, Scarlet fruit



Flame Acanthus

List of Plants for the Fall Sale

PERENNIALS: Blue Mistflower -Eastern, Gregg's Mistflower -Western, Brazos Penstemon, Carolina Phlox, Cedar Sage, Chile Pequin, Chocolate Daisy, Columbine -Yellow, Drummond's Aster, Drummond's Petunia, Fall Obedient Plant, False Dragonhead, False Nettle, Frostweed, Goldenrod, Heart-leaf Skullcap, Heath Aster, Mealy Blue Sage, Mexican Hat, Mexican Milkweed, Pigeon Berry, Powder Puff, Prairie Phlox, Purple Coneflower, Purple Fall Aster, Rock Penstemon, Scarlet Sage, Spiderwort, Western Ironweed, White Mistflower, Zexmenia

VINES: Coral Honeysuckle, Crossvine, Milkweed Vine, Passionflower -Maypop, Passionflower -Scarlet fruit, White Honeysuckle

GROUNDCOVERS: Frogfruit, Golden Groundsel, Horseherb, Low Wild Petunia, Lyreleaf Sage -Green, Pink Evening Primrose, Snake Herb, White Avens, Wild Petunia, Wild Violet, Winecup, Yarrow

SHRUBS: American Beautyberry, Autumn Sage -Red, Autumn Sage -Pink, Button Bush, Coral Berry, Elderberry, Everblooming Texas Sage, False Indigo, Flame Acanthus, Rock Rose, Texas Lantana, Turk's Cap, Virginia Sweetspire, Yaupon Holly

TREES: Black Willow, Burr Oak, Carolina Cherry Laurel, Cedar Elm, Eastern Red Cedar, Eve's Necklace, Hercules Club, Hop Tree, Mexican Buckeye, Mexican Plum, Red Buckeye, Red Oak, Roughleaf Dogwood, Sycamore

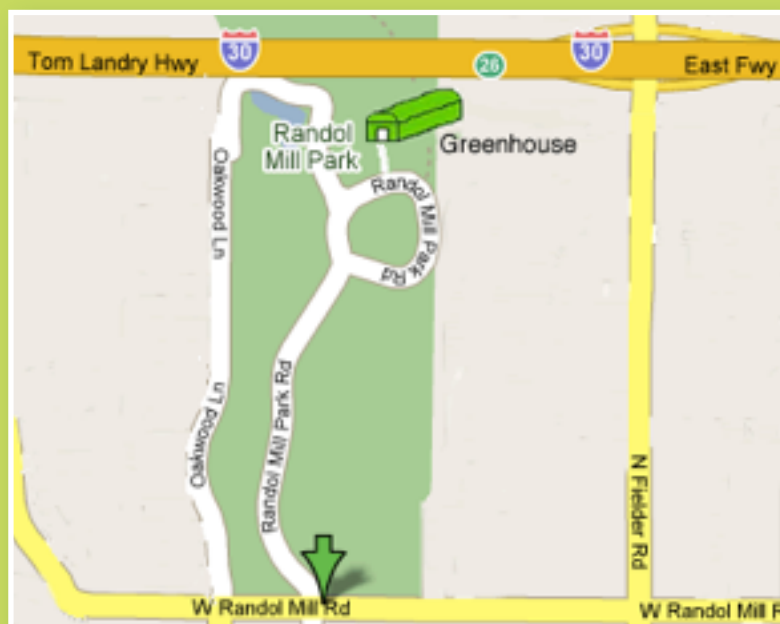
GRASSES: Cedar Sedge, Cherokee Sedge, Inland Seaoats, Gulf Muhly, Lindheimer's Muhly, Mexican Feather Grass

DESERT: American Agave, Red Yucca, Spineless Cactus

AQUATICS: Lizard's Tail

See our website for:

Details, Pictures and Prices



www.thewildscape.org

DIRECTIONS

The Greenhouse at Randol Mill Park Exit Interstate 30 South on Fielder Road. Drive two blocks West from Fielder Road on Randol Mill Road, then turn North into the park. The Plant Sale is held at the Randol Mill Park Greenhouse in the rear the park behind the swimming pool.

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