



# *The Morning Glory*

VOL 16 / NOVEMBER 2025

## LINDHEIMER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

### *Tis the Season for Seeds*

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*Bluebonnet Seed pod  
courtesy Craig Bruska*

Our annual seed exchange is November 18 at our monthly meeting. Bring your collected regional native seeds and swap with fellow gardeners, conservationists, and plant lovers. Whether you're a seasoned seed saver or just starting out, there's something for everyone.

Let's grow together —  
one seed at a time.

To get you started, in the accompanying article on collecting and saving native seeds, readers learn methods of identifying, collecting, cleaning and storing native seeds, which are naturally adapted to the local climate and soil conditions. The article offers practical tips on harvesting and storing native seeds, empowering individuals to become stewards of biodiversity in their own backyards. By embracing native seeds, we can cultivate resilient gardens that not only thrive but also help sustain our planet's delicate ecosystems.

**The Morning Glory** is a publication of the Lindheimer Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. The purpose of the Lindheimer Chapter shall be to promote conservation, appreciation and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example.

# Calendar of Lindheimer Chapter Events



## Native Seed Library Workshops

November 13<sup>th</sup> (second Thursday) Mammen seed cleaning 2-4 PM.  
November 20<sup>th</sup> (third Thursday) Garden Ridge seed cleaning 1-3 PM.

Seed collectors can drop off ripe seeds at any of these libraries or at the Chapter meeting. Come as you are, leave when you like. Seed workshops earn Master Naturalist CEU credits!

## Chapter Meetings

Board Meeting 11/11 9:30 AM  
General Meeting and Annual Seed Exchange 11/18 6:00 PM

All meetings are held at the Tye Preston Memorial Library located at 16311 South Access Rd,  
Canyon Lake, TX

## Garden Workdays

Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture – Bev Willmann  
Demonstration Garden Heritage Village workdays  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays 9:00 AM

Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country – Mickey Riviere  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays 9:30-11:00 AM

Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce – Sara Torres  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 9:00 AM





## *2026 Garden Grants are Open*

The Native Plant Society of Texas awards small grants to nature centers, schools, educational groups and others to help fund development of Monarch demonstration gardens or Monarch Waystations using native plants on public sites in Texas. The purpose of this program is to educate members, applicants, and the public about Monarch conservation and native plants, and to encourage restoration of Monarch habitats throughout the Texas migration flyway.

A completed application initiates a request for up to \$600 in funds to be used to purchase only Texas native plants for the purpose of installing or refreshing a Monarch Butterfly garden in a public place. The application period closes January 20, 2026. Information and forms can be found [here](#).

## *Virtual Events*

Many Chapters around the state, including the Lindheimer Chapter, hold virtual meetings and events which are recorded and available on the NPSOT State website. NPSOT Board meetings and Leadership Forums are also available. You can subscribe to a weekly email detailing these events and get more information [here](#).

## *Get on the Homegrown National Park Map*

Show off your native plant garden by “getting on the map”! The Native Plant Society of Texas is partnering with Doug Tallamy’s [Homegrown National Park® \(HNP\)](#) to add 100 Texas native plant gardens to their [Biodiversity Map](#). Let’s demonstrate how NPSOT members are making a real impact with their gardens!



# Native Plant Society of Texas

## *Lindheimer Chapter*

### Plant of the Month

November 2025

#### Twisted Leaf Yucca, *Yucca rupicola*



The twisted leaf yucca (*Yucca rupicola*), also known as Texas yucca or Spanish dagger, is a striking evergreen succulent native to the Edwards Plateau of Central Texas. Its most distinctive feature is the spiraling, lance-shaped leaves that emerge straight and gradually twist with age, forming low rosettes that hug the ground. These bright green leaves are edged with fine teeth and tipped with a sharp spine, creating a dramatic texture in dry landscapes. In spring, the plant sends up a tall flower stalk—often reaching 5 feet—adorned with creamy white, bell-shaped blossoms that dangle like lanterns and contrast beautifully against its rugged foliage.

Twisted leaf yucca thrives in dry, rocky environments, particularly on limestone ledges, open woodlands, and grass-covered plains. It prefers full sun to partial shade and well-drained soils ranging from sandy loam to caliche. This drought-tolerant perennial is ideal for xeriscaping and shaded rock gardens, requiring little to no maintenance once established. Its resilience in poor soils and minimal water requirements makes it a reliable choice for sustainable landscaping in the Texas Hill Country and similar arid regions.

Ecologically, *Yucca rupicola* plays a vital role in supporting native wildlife. Its fragrant flowers attract night-pollinating moths, including the specialized yucca moth, which is essential for its reproduction. The plant also provides nectar for butterflies and bees, while its foliage is moderately deer-resistant—though deer often nibble on the blossoms. Propagation is straightforward: it can be grown from seed or by transplanting offsets that emerge from underground stems. This dual strategy—sexual reproduction via pollination and vegetative spread—ensures its persistence across the rugged terrain it calls home.

**Note:** Twisted Leaf Yucca is a NPSOT NICE™ selection for Fall 2025.

*Text by Leon Dominick, NPSOT, TPW Magazine. Photos by Joseph A. Marcus and Lee Page, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.*

# *Native Seed Collection and Storage*

by Craig Bruska, Texas Master Naturalist, Chair Native Seed Committee, Native Plant Society of Texas, and Debbie Kyrouac, Texas Master Naturalist, Director Of Plant Sales, Lindheimer

Chapter and

Both are Instructors for NLCP Classes

Native seeds contribute to ecological balance by supporting native wildlife, improving soil health, and reducing the need for chemical inputs (see article on native plants for pest control, p. 14).

## *Understanding Seeds*

Native plants produce large amounts of seeds in hopes of a few successfully growing to maturity and producing seeds for the next generation. The Texas environment has high summer temperatures, periods of drought, and periods of intense rain and flash flooding. Because of the sometimes harsh conditions seeds may face, plants evolved to delay sprouting until conditions are right to grow. Sometimes germination is delayed for years while lying dormant in the soil seed-banks.

The two ways seed inhibit germination are physical (external/exterior) and physiological (internal/interior). Physical inhibition prevents water from entering the seed case and starting germination. This comes in the form of a hard shell surrounding the seed. To breakdown this shell, a seed must be exposed to scarification (opening the outer coat of a seed), scarification (temperature, or alternate periods of freezing and thawing cycles). Physiological protected seeds are permeable to water entering, but dormancy can only be broken by stratification. Some seeds use dual dormancy with both inhibitors present. In these cases, the physical barrier must be breached first, then the physiological barrier eliminated.



## *Native Seed Collection and Storage (continued)*

### *Understanding the Different Needs of Plants*

**Annual plants** - An annual plant is one that only survives one year, thus the need to reseed to perpetuate the species. Annuals also feed wildlife by providing abundant seed and ground cover for homes and safety.

e.g. Bluebonnets

**Perennial plants** – Perennial plants produce the next generation by seed and by rhizome. A rhizome is a modified underground plant stem that sends out roots and shoots from its nodes.

e.g. Salvias

**Biennial plants** – A biennial plant is a flowering plant that takes two years to complete its life cycle, growing leaves, stems, and roots in the first year, and producing flowers and seeds in the second year before dying.

e.g. Standing Cypress

### *Methods Plants use to Disperse Their Seeds*

- Wind
- Water
- Animals (Think of bird poop, animal fur and paws.)
- Explosive mechanisms - Dehiscence (Dehiscence is the splitting of a mature plant structure along a built-in line of weakness to release its contents. Think of milkweeds and bluebonnets!)
- Gravity (Seeds simply fall in place.)

### *Ethics of Seed Collecting*

Collect seeds only with permission and where it is legally permitted. Know the Texas Plants of Greatest Concern and collect only as allowed. In Texas, plant species of conservation concern may be listed as threatened or endangered under the authority of state law and/or under the U.S.

Endangered Species Act (ESA). Species may be listed as state threatened or endangered and not federally listed. The state list only addresses the status of a species within Texas. [You can find out more here.](#)

Do not collect on Federal or State Parks, or Nature areas. Be aware of the Texas Roadway Collection Rule. On the Federal level, there is the [Endangered Species Act of 1973](#). There are very specific penalties for violating this law, so it would pay anyone to not pick any wildflower not identified as common and unprotected.

Please limit collection to 10% of the available seeds. This ensures the survival of the plant in the area and food for wildlife.

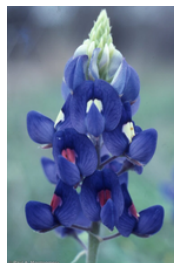
## *Native Seed Collection and Storage (continued)*

### *Methodology*

- Collect seeds only when they are fully ripened.
- Use organza bags to contain the seeds (Craig's favorite method) from seed pods that use explosive dehiscence for dispersions.
- Place seed pods in paper bags indoors to dry.
- For annual plants, the whole plant can be pulled out of the ground. Wrap root ends with twine and hang upside down to dry.
- For perennials, cut seed heads and place in brown paper bags head down.
- Do not put seeds in sealed plastic bags. If not fully dry, they will mold.

### *Sample Collection Times*

- Bluebonnet – Start blooming in late spring and into early summer. Collect seeds in fall. Pull entire plant and lay on sheet trays; separate the seeds from plant and chaff, then store in labeled paper bags. Compost the remainder!
- Damianita - Blooms in spring, summer, and fall. Dried seeds can be collected throughout the year.
- Fire Wheel - Blooms in spring so collect dried seeds in the summer.
- American Basketflower - Blooms in summer and collect dried seeds in summer and fall.
- Frogfruit – Column of flowers blooms in spring, summer, and fall. Collect seeds summer through fall.
- Rock Rose - Blooms in spring, summer, and fall. Collect dried seeds throughout the year.
- Standing Cypress - Blooms in summer so dried seeds can be collected in summer and fall.
- Esperanza – Blooms in summer so dried seeds can be collected in summer and fall.

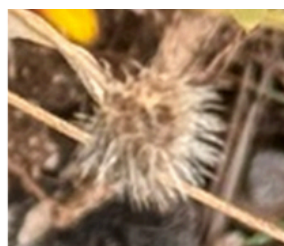


*Native Seed Collection and Storage (continued)*

*Chrysactinia mexicana*  
Damianita

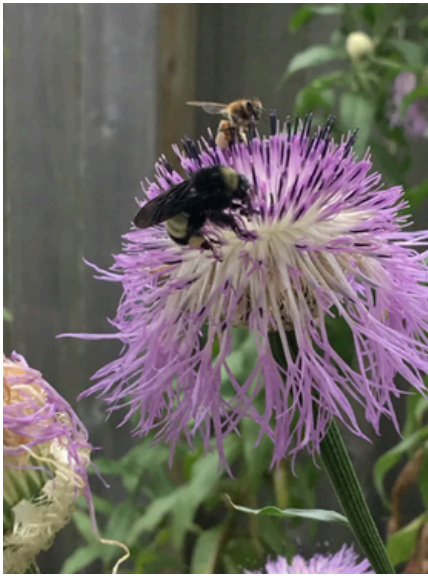


*Gallardia pulchella*  
Fire Wheel

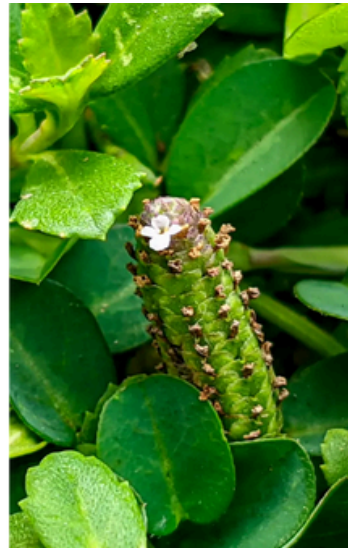


*Native Seed Collection and Storage (continued)*

*Plectocephalus americanus*  
American Basketflower

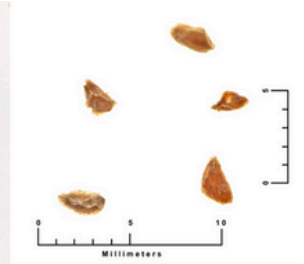


*Phyla nodiflora*  
Frogfruit



*Native Seed Collection and Storage (continued)*

*Ipomopsis rubra*  
Standing Cypress



*Merremia dissecta*  
Alamo Vine



## *Native Seed Collection and Storage (continued)*

### *Seed Cleaning \*\**

There are different techniques for seed cleaning of different seed types:

- **Threshing:** Threshing is the process of removing seeds from the plant and breaking up remaining plant materials (e.g., stems and leaves) into what is called chaff. The dry seed heads attached to the plants are gently rubbed or crushed to release the seed and break down the plant material, which can then be composted.
- **Winnowing:** Cleaning seed by differences in specific gravity is one of the oldest seed cleaning techniques. When done by hand in the wind it is commonly referred to as winnowing. On the simplest scale, seed and materials are dropped before a wind source (either natural wind or a fan).
- **Screening:** Hand-held screens are very useful for small to medium scale seed cleaning. Screens are used to either permit the crop seed to pass through the screen (collect and discard material larger than the seed that does not pass through), or to retain the crop seed on top of the screen and permit smaller-sized materials to pass through and be discarded.
- **Hand picking**



**\*\* Editor's Note:** Thanks to eOrganic.org authors for their contributions to this section:  
Micaela Colley, Organic Seed Alliance  
Alex Stone, Oregon State University  
Linda Brewer, Oregon State University

Winnowing or fanning seed with an electric box fan.  
Photo credit: Matthew Dillon, Organic Seed Alliance

## *Native Seed Collection and Storage (concluded)*

### *Seed Storage*

Seed Storage –

- Keep seeds in a cool, dark, and dry place. Store in the coolest part of your home.
- For longer term storage, put seeds in a Ziplock or vacuum bag @ 40F.
- Do not store outside, in garages, or sheds.
- Keep in breathable packages, such as paper bags, coin envelopes, or bill envelopes. Make sure to label and date the package!
- Do not freeze seeds unless they are complete dry. Any remaining moisture will freeze within the seeds as it expands, damaging the embryo.

### *Favorite References*

1. Nokes, Jill, *How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest*, (2001)
2. Phillips, Harry R., *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers*, (1985)
3. Hill, Lewis, *Secrets of Plant Propagation*, (1985)
4. Toogood, Alan, *Propagating Plants*, (2019)
5. NPSOT Native Plant Database:
  - Find the ecoregion in which you live: Texas Ecoregions Map and see a list of plants for an ecoregion when you click on it.
  - See lists of native plants suitable for containers and hanging baskets.
  - Where to buy native plants: NPSOT Native Plant Nursery Partners.
6. Native American Seed: great catalog with ideas and tips.
7. The NPSOT Seed Library Project: Each library has a database of native seeds with tons of information on culture and propagation.





## *Step Up and Lead – The Lindheimer Chapter Needs You!*

There are plenty of people with good intentions. They may join an organization, pay their annual dues because they care about the cause... and then sit back while others do the heavy lifting.

**BUT NOT YOU.**

You are the doers — the ones who recognize the value of our mission, jump in, and help the organization thrive. The Lindheimer Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas needs people like you to help shape our future.

### Open Leadership Positions for 2026

**President**

**President-Elect**

**Director of Community Outreach**

***Why Now?*** November is our nomination month for Board and Committee roles. This is your moment to shine and help advance our chapter's goals to preserve and protect our environment.

***You Won't Be Alone.*** You'll be supported every step of the way by a strong, committed Board and dedicated Committee Chairs who share your passion.

***And Yes — There's Brunch!*** After every monthly meeting, we gather at the lovely Wildflour Cafe in Sattler to digest and discuss Chapter affairs over good food and great company.

**So... what's stopping you from joining the fun and making a difference?**

***Questions or ready to say YES?*** Reach out to President Sara Torres or any current Board member — we'd love to hear from you! Email [Lindheimer-chapter@npsot.org](mailto:Lindheimer-chapter@npsot.org) or [check out our by-laws](#) for more information.



Did you know native plants can help naturally control pests? This is probably one of my favorite features of native plants. Of course, not all critters are pests. The first step is distinguishing what could be potentially destructive in your garden, like deer, moles, aphids, and Japanese beetles. Natural pest prevention and control begins with harnessing your garden's biodiversity. This means selecting plants that serve a dual purpose: Help foster a thriving environment for flower-friendly wildlife, while creating conditions that are unfavorable for pests.

For a deeper dive into all things pest prevention, we put together a great resource [over on our blog](#). *Be sure to enter your zip code to find plants native to our area!*

And don't forget, you can also [sort plants by animal resistance when shopping](#).

To better pest control,  
Kate Adelle  
Garden For Wildlife



DONATE 

# New Facebook Page!

## Please follow us! Lindheimer Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas

Find us by searching the exact name above, clicking on the url below or by using the QR code at left.

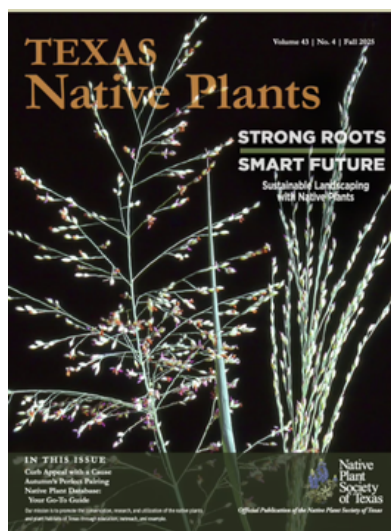


Our FB page is always full of pertinent information for our chapter as well as other events happening around our area, updated daily!

There are posts with upcoming events, weekly reminders, and a variety of volunteer opportunities to get involved, learn, meet new people, and have some fun.

Feel free to pass along any announcements or FB materials and suggestions to [lindheimer-comm@npsot.org](mailto:lindheimer-comm@npsot.org) with “Facebook” in the subject line.

*You can find our new and improved FB page here.*



*Fall 2025 Member Magazine*





# THANK YOU



*Iye Preston Memorial  
Library Staff*

*Thank  
you!*



**Helping Here.**



**Native  
Plant  
Society  
of Texas**



**Natives Improve & Conserve Environments**

**Native Plant Partners**

We thank the nurseries who carry native plants. You can find a complete list of them [here](#).

*Canyon Lake Ace Hardware*  
1150 FM 2673 • Canyon Lake, TX 78133  
830-964-2797

*South Texas Growers*  
22201 Hwy 46 West • Bulverde, TX 78163  
830-980-9179

*King Feed and Hardware*  
768 FM 2673 • Canyon Lake, TX 78133  
830-964-2205

*Pollinatives*  
101 South St. • Converse, TX 78109  
210-233-9922

*Ecosystem Regeneration Artisans*  
946 Boulder Bluff • San Marcos, TX 78666



# 2025 Lindheimer Board and Committee Members

Our members' contribution of time and energy is what makes this chapter *thrive*.



**President: Sara Torres**

**President Elect: Open**

**Treasurer: Sara Mato**

**Secretary: Dick Bigelow**

**Past President: Mickey Riviere**

**Director of Formal Education (NLCP): Craig Bruska**

**Director of Community Outreach: Open**

**Director of Communications: Marian Stasney**

**Director of Plant Sales: Deborah Kyrouac**

**Membership/Hospitality Committee: Beverly Willmann & Charlotte Wright**

**Program Committee: Mike Laffey, Sara Torres**

**NICE Committee: Leon Dominick**

**Field Trip Coordinator: Christina Campbell**

## Communications Team

**Facebook Coordinator: Nancy DeMarco**

**Webposts: Beverly Willman**

**Website, Instagram, Audio Visual, YouTube: Bob Drake**

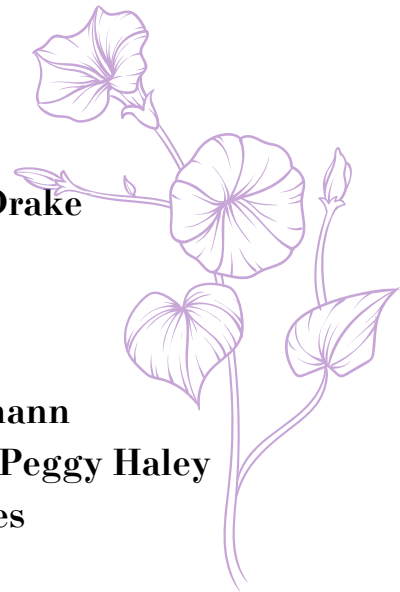
**Upcoming Events: Dick Bigelow**

## Workday Team Leads

**Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture: Bev Willmann**

**Heritage Museum of Texas Hill Country: Mickey Riviere & Peggy Haley**

**Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce: Sara Torres**



Submissions to *The Morning Glory* are welcome and due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication.

Send to the Editor, Marian Stasney at [marian@stasney.org](mailto:marian@stasney.org).