

Sabal texana

# THE SABAL

## ENDANGERED SPECIES AND THE NATIVE PLANT PROJECT -- AN EDITORIAL

The Native Plant Project talks at meetings about endangered and threatened species of plants in its lower Rio Grande Valley. Articles on endangered and threatened species and lists appear in The Sabal. But the question of what the Native Plant Project intends to do to benefit these endangered and threatened species has not been addressed.

The Native Plant Project proposes to request permission from the Regional Endangered Species office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) to monitor the surviving populations of the two officially listed Endangered Plants in the lower Rio Grande Valley (Ashy Dogweed, page 8, and Johnston's Frankenia, page 7). The monitoring could include periodically checking the sites for new or increasing threats, making observations not requiring contact with the plants, monitoring the reproductive state and health of the plants, and surveying the plants associated with them. With permission, the Native Plant Project proposes to collect seeds and attempt to establish in protected areas small populations from the seeds or possibly cuttings; assist in identifying potential sites with essential habitat which may support new populations; make phenological and ecological observations; remove invading exotics; search for competitors, predators, herbivores, pollinators, and other associated plants and invertebrates. The precise aspects to be monitored would be determined through discussion with the Endangered Species office. The scale at which the project is to go forward depends on the extent of the commitment Native Plant Project members make. Without permission, we are allowed to do one thing regarding Endangered Species -- look at them. Does that mean watch them die?

The Board has approved the purchase of materials for propagating plants for several projects discussed at the last Board meeting and orders placed. A portion of these materials should be reserved to grow either officially listed Endangered Species, species on the Native Plant Project's lists, or preferably both. Which members are attempting to show that an imperiled native species makes a good ornamental -- which can later serve as a seed source for revegetation projects? If we continue to do no more than talk about them, some of them will vanish from the lower Rio Grande Valley, perhaps even the face of the Earth. As indicated in the letter within, the protection and recovery of peripheral species imperiled in the lower Rio Grande Valley is the responsibility of the Native Plant Project -- not any federal or state agency.

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CHANGES IN THE NATIVE PLANT PROJECT'S ENDANGERED LISTS

The Endangered Species Committee of the Native Plant Project (NPP) met on 4 May 1987. Topics discussed included new lists received from the Fish and Wildlife Service (candidate species), Texas Organization for Endangered Species (TOES), and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD); changes to be implemented in the Native Plant Project's list for the lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV); and the Native Plant Project's involvement with imperiled species. Changes in the TOES list are not discussed below; however, changes in the NPP lists resulting from the new TOES list are included. The newly issued TPWD lists include two LRGV species (Ashy Dogweed, Dyssodia tephroleuca; Johnston's Frankenia, Frankenia johnstonii) as Endangered in Texas. The same two species comprise the LRGV's representatives on the federal list of globally Endangered Species.

Esenbeckia berlandieri should revert to Esenbeckia runyonii pending completion of a study of the relationships between the two. E. runyonii (Jopoy) is currently known from three trees in natural habitat in Cameron County and five or six under cultivation. The following species should be moved from the LRGV watch list to the LRGV threatened list:

Bailey's Ballmoss, Tillandsia baileyi, Bromeliaceae  
Lila de los Llanos, Anthericum chandleri, Liliaceae  
Ortiguillo, Urtica chamaedryoides var. runyonii, Urticaceae  
Shrubleaf Bladderpod, Lesquerella thamnophylla, Brassicaceae  
Tamaulipan Manihot, Manihot walkerae, Euphorbiaceae  
Yellowshow, Amoreuxia wrightii, Cochliospermaceae  
Plains Gumweed, Grindelia oolepis, Asteraceae  
Tamaulipan Ragweed, Ambrosia cheiranthifolia, Asteraceae

The three species which are the strongest candidates for federal listing were originally placed on the NPP watch list because they were too poorly known to the committee (Lila de los Llanos, Tamaulipan Manihot, and Tamaulipan Ragweed).

Rare species which should be sought in the LRGV counties bordering the counties listed include:

Texas Sea-purslane, Sesuvium trianthemoides, Aizoaceae, Kenedy County  
Congested-leaf Willow-wort, Paronychia congesta, Caryophyllaceae, Jim Hogg Co.  
Flexible-spined Prickly Pear, Opuntia strigil var. flexospina, Cactaceae,  
Zapata County

Falfurrias Milkvine, Matalea radiata, Asclepiadaceae, Brooks County

Correll's Obedient-plant, Physostegia correllii, Lamiaceae, Zapata County

These five species remain peripheral to the defined four-county LRGV at present; they are placed on the NPP watch list until their status can be further determined in the future. The prickly pear is also known from Webb County and the willow-wort from Val Verde County and Nuevo Le6n; the other three are endemic to the given county. Eleocharis brachycarpa is added to the NPP watch list pending discussion with the nominator before further considering the two nominated species of Eleocharis; neither are known to the committee.

The revised NPP lists include 12 listed as endangered, 30 as threatened, 19 as watch list, and 4 as extinct in the four-county lower Rio Grande Valley, including 5 added watch list plants in the four adjoining counties. The net total of the LRGV proper remains the same, plus the second, unresolved Eleocharis. The revised list should be sent to members in the near future. Members with records of any plant mentioned (except Honey Mesquite) as being on one of the lists should submit the record in writing to the secretary.

NATIVE PLANT PROJECT  
Meeting Announcement

Date: Friday, 15 March 1987  
Time: 1930 (7:30 PM)  
Place: Mid-Valley Bank Community Room, 500 S. Missouri, Weslaco  
Agenda: (1) Native Plant Project Board of Directors meeting at 1830 (6:30 PM)  
(2) Native Plant Project general meeting at 1930 (7:30 PM).  
Program: The Endangered Species Committee (including Bob Lonard and Jim Everitt) will present a slide program on the endangered plants of the lower Rio Grande Valley.

Secretary  
Native Plant Project

Wherry Mimosa  
*Mimosa wherryana* (Britt.) Standl.  
Mimosaceae (Mimosa Family)

FIELD IDENTIFICATION: rounded, much-branched, prickly shrub, 2-3 1/2 ft tall.

FLOWERS. May-September, on nearly filiform, axillary peduncles, 1/4-3/4 in. long, puberulent to glabrous; flowers numerous, borne in globose heads, glabrous or the calyx-teeth cillolate, calyx and corolla small, 4-5-lobed; stamens 8-10. [Correll & Johnston: Spring and Fall; editor's obs.: November 1986, Santa Margarita; flowers many and attractive.]

FRUIT. A narrowly oblong legume, straight or somewhat falcate, flattened, glabrate, 1/2-1 in. long, 1/8-1/4 in. wide, both margins usually with sharp, slender prickles (more rarely unarmed); valves chartaceous, the margins separating at maturity.

LEAVES. Twice-pinnate, 1/2-3/4 in. long, rachis puberulent or short-pubescent; pinnae 1-3 pairs; leaflets 3-6 pairs per pinna, oblong, obtuse or rounded, 1/25-1/12 in. long, puberulent or glabrous.

TWIGS. Slender, zigzag, at first puberulent but later becoming glabrous, gray to dark brown or black; prickles small, mostly solitary, recurved.

RANGE. Southern Texas, type from Arroyo del Tigre, between Roma and Zapata, Texas. Also collected at Rio Grande City, Texas, by B. C. Tharp, his 5 sheets dated September 9, 1929, deposited in the University of Texas Herbarium. Evidently of a very limited range in southernmost Texas and adjacent Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Local on endangered caliche and gravel hills near the Rio Grande in Starr and Zapata Counties and adjacent Tamaulipas.

REMARKS. The genus name, *Mimosa*, is from the Greek word *mimos* ("to mimic"), suggesting the rapid animal-like movement of the leaves of some species. The species name, *wherryana*, is for the American botanist Edgar Theodore Wherry (b. 1904).



WHERRY MIMOSA  
*Mimosa wherryana* (Britt.) Standl.

The Native Plant Project rated Wherry Mimosa as a threatened (by caliche and gravel mining, as well as habitat clearing, in its limited range) species in the lower Rio Grande Valley.

Wherry Mimosa is an attractive flowering shrub with ornamental probabilities, especially in Xeriscapes.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORDER NO. 87-001

The Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department finds that the species of native plants listed below are included on the United States List of Endangered Plant Species and that the listed plants occur in the State of Texas. Accordingly, the Executive Director hereby ORDERS that the species of native plants listed below are endangered or threatened, and therefore subject to all protections under Chapter 88 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.

The following plants are endangered:

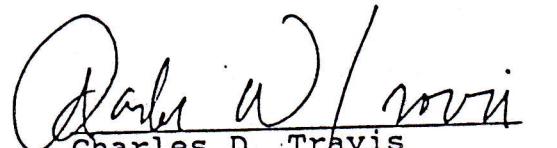
Texas wild-rice	<u>Zizania texana</u>
Navasota ladies'-tresses	<u>Spiranthes parksii</u>
Texas poppy-mallow	<u>Callirhoe scabriuscula</u>
Tobusch fishhook cactus	<u>Ancistrocactus tobuschii</u>
Nellie cory cactus	<u>Coryphantha minima</u>
Sneed pincushion cactus	<u>Coryphantha sneedii</u> var. <u>sneedii</u>
Lloyd's hedgehog cactus	<u>Echinocereus lloydii</u>
black lace cactus	<u>Echinocereus</u> <u>reichenbachii</u> var. <u>albertii</u>
Davis' green pitaya	<u>Echinocereus viridiflorus</u> var. <u>davisii</u>
ashy dogweed	<u>Dyssodia tephroleuca</u>
Johnston's frankenia	<u>Frankenia johnstonii</u>
Texas snowbells	<u>Styrax texana</u>
slender rush-pea	<u>Hoffmannseggia tenella</u>
Texas bitterweed	<u>Hymenoxys texana</u>

The following plants are threatened:

bunched cory cactus	<u>Coryphantha ramillosa</u>
Lloyd's Mariposa cactus	<u>Neolloydia mariposensis</u>
McKittrick pennyroyal	<u>Hedeoma apiculatum</u>

This Order is issued pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code and is effective immediately.

SIGNED this the 5th day of March, 1987.

  
Charles D. Travis  
Executive Director  
Texas Parks and Wildlife  
Department

Native Plant Project  
Edinburg, TX 78540-1433

Dear Native Plant Project members:

We would be glad to have the Native Plant Project comment on both recovery plans and listings for species in the lower Rio Grande Valley. I will include your group on our mailing list.

I am enclosing copies of the draft recovery plans for Frankenia johnstonii and Dyssodia tephroleuca. If you have comments on the drafts, please send them to me but the official comment period has expired. The plans have not been released to the general public. They are still drafts and you probably saw or heard about them through Fish and Wildlife Service personnel in the area. Some of the tasks in the plans will give you an idea of things the Native Plant Project could do to help recover the species. These include monitoring, searches for additional populations, and propagation studies. Perhaps we can meet sometime and discuss specific projects. If the Native Plant Project wants to start any work independently though, please coordinate with us first. Also, encourage your members not to start projects before coordinating with others in your group. This will prevent duplicating efforts and avoid damaging any populations.

Esenbeckia runyonii is a good example of the of the limits of Fish and Wildlife Service responsibility. Basically, we cannot consider protecting plants that are rare in the lower Rio Grande Valley but more common farther south in Mexico. If we had evidence that a lower Rio Grande Valley species was also depleted in Mexico, we could then take action, but not before. I agree that species at the edge of their ranges in the lower Rio Grande Valley are significant to your flora but currently the Fish and Wildlife Service cannot be responsible for them. Therefore, I encourage any work the Native Plant Project might do.

I am enclosing a list of the species of interest to us. These species are candidates for listing but have no current protection under the Endangered Species Act. Species in category 2 still need investigation to see if they qualify for listing. Species in category 1 have been investigated and found to qualify for listing. These, however, may not be listed for some time if other category 1 species are found to be in greater jeopardy and therefore take higher listing priorities. Our staff is only large enough to work on two or three plant listings for Texas a year.

I hope I have answered your questions. I will try to keep the Native Plant Project informed of our work in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Perhaps we can find projects to work on jointly. I am enclosing a Native Plant Project membership application that was sent to another staff member in our office. I would enjoy getting your newsletters and keeping up with your activities.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Charles MacDonald  
Endangered Species Botanist

Editor's note: The species indicated on Dr. MacDonald's list will be indicated on the revision of the NPP lists. The NPP's Endangered Species Committee members are reviewing the draft recovery plans for possible comment.

A FIELD TRIP TO CHIHUAHUA!

The 23 May 1987 field trip will be a survey of a tract of land near Chihuahua. We will meet at 8 am at the R & R Meat Market on the northeast corner of FM 1427 and Loop 374 (Old 83) in Perezville directly across the highway from Bates Power Plant. (Chihuahua's harder to give directions to.) That intersection is a little over 3 miles west of the intersection of Loop 374 (Old 83) and U.S. Expressway 83 on the west side of Mission -OR- a mile south of U.S. 83 (the continuation west of the expressway) on FM 1427. Martin's Valley Ranches (no relation to the FAS-Valley Land Protection Fund) on the northwest corner of U.S. 83 and FM 1427 indicate the turn onto FM 1427. [Be careful, if you miss the first point where FM 1427 crosses U.S. 83, you will find it when it comes back to U.S. 83 in Penitas and you are lost. See Locator Map H in the Southwestern Bell telephone directory.]

Al, Chihuahua! This land contains unique plants, some of which may not be known from Hidalgo County. We will concurrently essay to learn what birds and other wildlife utilize the habitats. The ultimate goal is to find some way to preserve and protect the unique communities. The owner would like to preserve the habitat if he can find a buyer, but he will clear it if that is what it takes to sell it. Participants will identify and note everything alive they possibly can. Be especially prepared for spines and thorns. No sandals or bare legs, please! It may get quite warm, so be prepared with hats, fluids, repellent, sunscreens, and forceps or tweezers, as well as the usual binoculars, cameras, books and other necessary paraphernalia.

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Continued from page 9.

- Lonard, Robert I., James H. Everitt, Frank W. Judd, with Norman A. Browne. In press. Woody plants of the lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas. 202 pp.
- Lonard, Robert I., and Frank W. Judd. Effects of a severe freeze on native woody plants in the lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas. Southwestern Nat. 30(3):397-403.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1983. Department of the Interior Land Protection Plan for the Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties, Texas. U.S. Fish & Wildl. Svc., Albuquerque. 57 pp.
- Vines, Robert A. 1960. Trees, shrubs, and woody vines of the Southwest. Univ. of Texas Press, Austin. 1104 pp.

JOHNSTON'S FRANKENIA

Johnston's Frankenia (Frankenia Johnstonii) was discovered by Donovan Correll in 1966 in Zapata County. He found it again the next day in Starr County. Correll named the new plant after Marshall Johnston; Correll and Johnston published their Manual of Vascular Plants of Texas in 1970. The population found by James Everitt in 1974 was the last to be discovered. Billy Lee Turner described a population from Nuevo León as a new species in 1973, but it later was determined to also be Frankenia johnstonii. Thus, the species is known from six, small, isolated, populations (three in Starr County, two in Zapata County, and one in Nuevo León).

Johnston's Frankenia is a small, grayish- or bluish-green shrub with a woody base, woody taproot, and a number of willowy stems. It reaches 3 dm in height. The stems are thin and hairy. The hairy, oblanceolate to oblong-elliptic leaves have distinct, short (1-2 mm) petioles; they reach 13 x 4 mm in size. The 4 mm sepals form a tube with five triangular lobes 2 mm long. The five white petals have claws and are about twice as long as the sepals. The flowers are solitary in the leaf axils. Stamens are six and styles 3-cleft. The fruit is a two-seeded capsule. The rare habitat preferred by Johnston's Frankenia includes saline flats and rocky, gypseous hillsides. No drawings were available to include; it can be seen as part of the slide show at the May meeting.

Johnston's Frankenia was listed as an Endangered Species by the USFWS on 7 August 1984 and by the TPWD on 5 March 1987. The TOES (1987) upgraded Frankenia johnstonii to a category I species, globally in danger of extinction. In Starr County, Johnston's Frankenia occurs outside the biotic communities delineated in the Land Protection Plan (USFWS 1983) for protection by inclusion in the Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge and outside the proposed wildlife corridor along the Rio Grande.

Threats to the species include few individuals, highly specialized habitat requirements, restricted distribution, low reproductive rates, and ranching practices. Livestock may trample seedlings and mature shrubs and do browse new growth. Land clearing could remove an entire population and exotic grasses, if seeded at the site, could crowd out this endangered species. Any site near the U.S. 83 corridor is also threatened by urban sprawl. The draft recovery plan proposes to reduce the threats faced by Johnston's Frankenia, protect its habitat, fence out livestock, monitor the populations, and study its life history and ecology to determine how its survival may be enhanced.

Literature Utilized

- Correll, Donovan S., and Marshall C. Johnston. 1970. Manual of the vascular plants of Texas. Texas Research Foundation, Renner. 1881 pp.
- Lonard, Robert I., James H. Everitt, Frank W. Judd, with Norman A. Browne. In press. Woody plants of the lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas. 202 pp.
- Poole, Jackie M. 1986. [Draft] recovery plan for Johnston's Frankenia. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2, Albuquerque. 37 pp.
- Texas Organization for Endangered Species. 1987. Endangered, Threatened, & watch lists of plants of Texas. TOES Publication 5, second revision. 10 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1983. Department of the Interior Land Protection Plan for the Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties, Texas. 57 pp.

ASHY DOGWEED

Ashy Dogweed was discovered by Elzada Clover in 1932 in Starr County. S. F. Blake described it as Dyssodia tephroleuca in 1935. Noone since Clover has been able to locate the species at its type locality. Donovan Correll found a second population in 1965 in Zapata County; which is the only one known for this south Texas endemic. J. L. Strother (In press) demonstrated that tephroleuca should be in the genus Thymophylla. Dyssodia will probably continue to be used until/unless the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists the name change for this Endangered Species.

Ashy Dogweed is an erect perennial with woolly stems and peduncles that may reach 3 dm. The leaves are small (0.3-0.8 x 10-15 mm), linear, and alternate. The flowers have 12-13 golden rays and about 30 yellow disk flowers. The achenes (seeds) are only 3-4 mm long. Correll and Johnston (1970) describe the habitat as grassland-brush; others cannot agree whether the grassland or the brush (cenizo-blackbrush) was the original, unimpacted habitat. Likewise, the literature conflicts on soil type and this needs to be ground truthed. No drawings were available to include; it can be seen as part of the slide show at the May meeting. Ashy Dogweed was listed as an Endangered Species by the USFWS on 19 July 1984 and by the TPWD on 5 March 1987. The TOES (1987) upgraded Ashy Dogweed to a category I species, globally in danger of extinction.

The Starr County population cannot be located. If the site can be found and it is suitable for reintroduction of Ashy Dogweed, it may be eligible for protection by inclusion into the Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge although the site appears to lie outside the proposed wildlife corridor (USFWS 1983) along the Rio Grande.

Threats to the species include few individuals, highly specialized habitat requirements, a single small population, low reproduction or survival, ranching practices, highway department maintenance practices, and pipeline maintenance. Livestock may trample the soil and the plants; although cattle apparently do not find Ashy Dogweed palatable, other herbivores (such as goats) may be able to consume it. Land clearing would destroy the entire population. The highly competitive exotic, Buffel Grass, is invading the population; its dense stands preclude survival of most other species. The draft recovery plan proposes to reduce the threats faced by Ashy Dogweed, protect its one population and habitat, fence out livestock, educate the landowner and highway department and pipeline personnel, monitor the population, establish additional populations within its historic range, and study its life history and ecology to determine how its survival may be enhanced.

Literature Utilized

- Correll, Donovan S., and Marshall C. Johnston. 1970. Manual of the vascular plants of Texas. Texas Research Foundation, Renner. 1881 pp.
- Poole, Jackie M. 1986. [Draft] recovery plan for the Ashy Dogweed. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2, Albuquerque. 33 pp.
- Texas Organization for Endangered Species. 1987. Endangered, Threatened, & watch lists of plants of Texas. TOES Publication 5, second revision. 10 pp.
- Strother, J. L. In press. Renovation of Dyssodia (Compositae: Tageteae). Univ. Calif. Publ. Bot. 48:1-87.
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ADDITIONAL DAVID'S MILKBERRY SITES IN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Zachary Labus and Joe Ideker

David's Milkberry (Chiococca alba) has been reported as surviving in Texas only in the Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary in Cameron County (Bletsch 1983a, Ideker 1984-85). David's Milkberry froze almost back to the ground during the Christmas freeze of 1983 (Bletsch 1983b, Lonard and Judd 1985). Bletsch's (1983b) prediction, "It will return in time", has come true -- both within the Sanctuary where it is now again conspicuous and at other sites from which it has recently been reported. David's Milkberry was featured and illustrated in The Sabal 4(1):3, 1987. The Endangered Species Committee of the Native Plant Project rated it as threatened in the lower Rio Grande Valley (End. Spp. Comm. 1986).

This tropical species reaching its northern limit in Cameron County (Vines 1960) may prove of value as an indicator species in delineating the former extent of the now cleared Texas Sabal Palm forest. Heep and Lonard (1986, or see summary in The Sabal 3(4):2, 1986) reported David's Milkberry from the site of the newly rediscovered Esenbeckia runyonii on Resaca del Rancho Viejo in Cameron County. Labus found it in 1987 on the Garza-Cavazos Tract of the Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Ideker and party found it on 17 January 1987 along the Montezuma Baldcypress-lined Resaca de la Palma near Brownsville; it was in fruit that day at the Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary. Lonard, Everitt, et al (In press) referred to David's Milkberry as infrequent to rare on loamy soils in brush near the Rio Grande in Cameron County. Correll and Johnston (1970) describe the Texas habitat and range as palm groves and brushlands in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties; it thus may still occur in the area just west of Santa María, but no precise location is yet known.

Completion of the wildlife corridor with the complete acquisition of the Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS 1983) through cooperative private, state, and federal efforts to complete the Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (including state and private holdings) before these few, isolated sites are further disrupted or denuded should insure the survival of rare, tropical species such as David's Milkberry in Texas. Additional populations of these rare species will be sought. David's Milkberry has been propagated by Heep. Thus, it potentially can be reestablished in suitable, revegetated habitats and reduce the threats against it and its associates.

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- Bletsch, Lloyd. 1983b. Trail guide [to the] National Audubon Society's Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary. National Audubon Society, Brownsville. 24 pp.
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- Heep, Michael R., and Robert I. Lonard. 1986. Esenbeckia berlandieri (Rutaceae) rediscovered in extreme southern Texas. Southwestern Nat. 31(2):259-260.
- Ideker, Joe. 1984-85. Bosque de las Palmas. The Sabal 1(6):1-4, 2(1):5-8 [see additional references cited therein].

USES OF THE MESQUITE TREE

Mary Hill  
Sharyland Garden Club

Sharyland Garden Club met Feb. 18 at Valley Garden Center, McAllen. Tess Bluhm introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Betty Meilahn, who gave a program on the mesquite tree.

"The mesquite tree is a hardy, manageable tree native to the arid regions of the southwest United States and northern Mexico. It is very difficult to destroy as the roots extend 50 to 300 feet down and the seeds can remain dormant for 40 years," she said.

"This tree provided the early settlers with the staples of life. The bean-like pod with a sweet pulp surrounding the seeds was used as food. The seeds are nutritious with lots of minerals and no starch. The pods are cooked and eaten, and even a beer-like drink is made from the pods. The wood of the tree is used to make furniture, railroad ties, fence posts that are known to be 150 years old, and even the beams of the Alamo in San Antonio are made of mesquite wood. The oldest cross in history is made of the mesquite. The settlers used the two-inch long thorns as needles. The roots of the tree made excellent riding crops," Meilahn continued.

"Today, one of the favorite woods for a barbecue is mesquite charcoal. Bees love the nectar from the clusters of small yellow blossoms which makes excellent honey. Birds nest in the branches, the mesquite thickets provide shelter for turkeys, deer, and other wildlife, and wildlife love the seed pods," she said.

Louise Schlaefer gave the horticulture report on propagating sage plants.

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Editor's note: Please submit more excellent articles on the uses of native plants!



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