



NATIONAL WILDFLOWER RESEARCH CENTER

wildflower

Special New Center Edition/1995

Volume 12, Number 2

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Photographs by Jan Blumenfeld

J. C. Blumenfeld
Editor

After five years of dreaming, planning, and building, the new home of the National Wildflower Research Center opens its doors the weekend of April 8-9.

The 42-acre facility, a model of environmentally conscious construction, is one of the best resources in North America for information and education about native plants and their uses in natural and planned landscapes.

Ever wonder what a bumblebee feels like flying into a flower 2-3 times its size? Ask a young visitor to the Children's Little House (scheduled to open in September), where bumblebee jackets are required dress for playing on child-size flowers. What did the pre-European settlement Texas landscape look like 170 years ago? Take a look at the restored savannah and Wildflower Meadow through the wall of panoramic picture windows in the Visitors Gallery or follow the Nature Trail for a closer look. Need an idea of what species will do best in your garden in Vermont? Visit the Library and spend some quiet time browsing one of the largest collections of

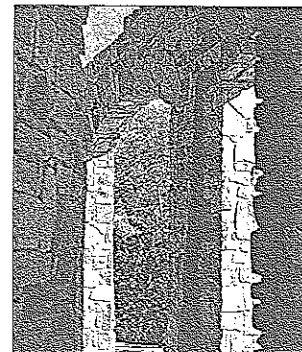
native plant information in North America.

Every aspect of the new facility is designed to inform and educate the visitor about the many uses of native plants, sound ecological principles, and the variety of ecological habitats throughout North America. After touring the extensive gardens, grounds, and exhibits, enjoy a great lunch at the Wildflower Cafe, a panoramic view of the Texas Hill Country from the 43-foot tall Tower, or browse a huge collection of native plant-theme gifts and books in Wild Ideas, the gift store.

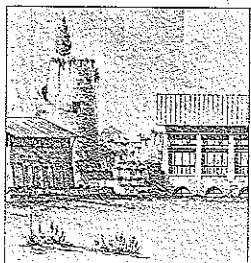
With the opening of the new Wildflower Center facility, your membership is more valuable than ever. Center members receive unlimited free admission to the Center for themselves and their immediate family as well as discounts on products from the Clearinghouse and gift store. In addition, members receive early notice of special classes, lectures, and programs offered by the Wildflower Center.

Join us in Austin for the Grand Opening Festival April 8-9, and the special Members-Only Open House April 2, and see what all the fun and excitement is about.

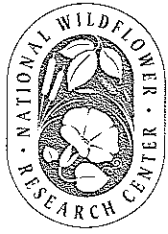
The rooftop water harvesting system is the largest of its kind in North America.



The auditorium is capable of hosting a Presidential address.



Rendering courtesy of Greenleaf Partners, Inc., Architects



The National Wildflower Research Center is a non-profit research and educational organization committed to the conservation and reestablishment of native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees.

Sincere thanks to the members of the Board of Directors who played a key role in making the new Wildflower Center a reality.

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Special New Center Edition

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FESTIVAL

GRAND

Schedule of Events

OPENING

APRIL 8 & 9, 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Call (512) 292-4100 for parking and shuttle information.
Open to the public.

SATURDAY

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

9:00: Join Dr. David Northington, NWRC staff, and local dignitaries for the OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING!

Speakers

In the Auditorium
11:30-12:15: Keynote Speaker; To Be Announced
12:45-1:30: Authors Sally & Andy Wasowski on "Requiem for a Lawnmower"
2:00-2:45: Author Henry Art on "Native Intelligence: Learning from the Wildflowers"
3:15-4:00: To Be Announced

Authors, Artists, and Craftspeople

At Wild Ideas: The Store
1:45-3:45: Booksigning: Sally & Andy Wasowski, *Native Gardening For Dry Climates; Native Texas Plants; Requiem for a Lawnmower; Gardening with Native Plants of the South*
3:00-5:00: Booksigning: Henry Art, *A Garden of Wildflowers: 101 Native Species and How to Grow Them; The Wildflower Gardener's Guides*

Children's Activities

In the Auditorium
9:30-10:00: Ronald McDonald environmental show
10:30-11:00: Ronald McDonald environmental show (Repeat)

MILK & MUFFINS with Ronald McDonald provided after each show outside the Children's Little House—Courtesy of McDonald's of Central Texas.

In the Children's Little House
11:00-5:00: Legends, stories, puppet shows, crafts, and more!
1:00: Mary Shaver, puppets

Music

At the Cafe Terrace
12:00-5:00: John Meadows
In the Meditation Garden
10:30 & 2:00: Jon Emery

Demonstrations

Near the Greenhouses
9:30 & 11:00: Home Composting with Wayne Kamin, Master Composter, Austin Community Garden
1:00-4:00: To Be Announced
In the Butterfly Garden
2:00: Butterfly release and talk by Judith Levicoff

General Activities

In the Visitors Gallery
Information; Exhibits;
Video: "Seeds For Tomorrow"

Native Plant/Seed Sale

Under the big tent in the parking lot. Purchases may be held.

SUNDAY

Speakers

In the Auditorium
11:15-12:00: Radio and TV personality John Dromgoole on "Let's Go Natural"
12:15-1:00: Author Peter Loewer on "The Wild Gardener"
1:30-2:30: Billy B., "Science, Song, and Dance Man"
3:00-3:45: Bret Rappaport on "The Law and Native Landscaping"
4:00-4:45: To Be Announced

Authors, Artists, and Craftspeople

At Wild Ideas: The Store
1:30-3:30: Booksigning: Peter Loewer, *The Wild Gardener*
1:30-3:30: Booksigning: Scott Millard, *How to Grow The Wildflowers*

Children's Activities

In the Children's Little House
11:00-5:00: Legends, stories, puppet shows, crafts, and more!
1:00: Kim Lehman, folktales
2:00: Mary Shaver, puppets
4:00: Kim Lehman, folktales

Music

At the Cafe Terrace
12:00-5:00: John Meadows
In the Meditation Garden
12:00 & 3:00: Jon Emery

Demonstrations

Near the Greenhouses
12:00 & 2:00: Home Composting with Wayne Kamin, Master Composter, Austin Community Gardens
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General Activities

In the Visitors Gallery
Information; Exhibits
Video: "Seeds For Tomorrow"

Native Plant/Seed Sale

Under the big tent in the parking lot. Purchases may be held.

Special Members-Only Event

Wildflower Center members and volunteers are invited to a special open-house at the new facility on Sunday, April 2, from 3-6 p.m.

Call (800) 460-9846 by March 24 to RSVP for this exciting pre-opening look at the new Center.



Building a New Wildflower Center: Practicing What We Preach

The new home of the National Wildflower Research Center is finally a reality! Over five years of thoughtful planning, design, and construction have resulted in a stunning and extremely functional facility that exemplifies our organizational purpose. This is not simply a new place from which to pursue the Center's mission — it demonstrates the very reason for the Center's existence.

The construction process we developed — from anticipating what our programs and services would be for the next several decades, to the design and construction of the grounds and buildings — is a process that can be repeated successfully by anyone. The philosophy behind the Center construction is our desire to coexist with the land in a more sensitive and resource conserving way while being cost effective and satisfying the needs of the public we serve.

Preplanning was the most important aspect in making the new Wildflower Center facility a model of environmentally sensitive construction. This included a biological survey to understand which plant species and natural communities were on the land and how sensitive these species and communities were to construction. A geological and hydrological study was also conducted to identify specific recharge features of the Edwards Aquifer (portions of which are located beneath the site) and the slope of the land (topography).

Using this preliminary information, we selected a site for the new facility that necessitated the removal of only one small tree and protected the aquifer's recharge openings from surface runoff. The

vegetative map we created was especially helpful in designing the entry drive, parking area, and building locations to provide shade and to take maximum advantage of existing trees in the master landscape design plan.

Our architects, Overland Partners, Inc., of San Antonio; master site planner, Darrel Morrison of the University of Georgia; and Landscape Architect, J. Robert Anderson of Austin, were hired as a team. Our request to them was to blend the land and buildings in a complementary



However, landscaping plans call for adding more than 500 species of plants native to Central Texas to various areas throughout the site. Most of these plants are being grown by our horticultural staff and volunteers. Nearly 75,000 seedlings have been propagated or transplanted from our old site into containers for replanting at the new Center.

Construction of the new Wildflower Center used techniques we hope will be copied in construction projects across the country and in your backyard. I look forward to your coming for many visits to enjoy the landscaping, the preserved natural beauty of the land, the architecture, the educational exhibits and programs, our cafe, gift store, water cistern/observation tower, and all the special features you will discover with each new visit. The volunteers, staff, and I look forward to welcoming you to your, and our, new home.

David K. Northington, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Construction of the new facility used techniques we hope will be copied in construction projects across the country and in your backyard.

planning, and detailed site and building design, construction commenced. Fencing was used to surround and prevent access to land that would not become drives, parking spaces, or buildings. All trees were assessed a dollar value based on their trunk and branch dimensions and marked with amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$35,000, which would be deducted from the contractor's fee if a branch or tree was damaged during construction. Not even a small piece of bark was chipped during seven-months of construction activity, although one small tree was removed.

As site work began, all topsoil was stockpiled, as was all stone large enough to be reused in landscaped areas. More than 250 plants were "rescue dug" from a restoration area and construction zones and transplanted to other areas as part of the landscape plan. Those plants that could not be rescued because of size, rocky ground, or other reasons were cleared and mulched for use on the transplants and other areas.

As with most former ranch land, the diversity of species at the new site is far below what it would be without disturbance.

manner. It was clear during this early planning that we wanted a "campus" of buildings, creating various landscaping spaces among them, rather than a single, very large building, which would have a much greater impact on the land.

After this careful process of evaluation, mapping, conceptual

To restore the disturbed areas with only native species, creative solutions had to be found. Some of the solutions used at the new Wildflower Center site include:

- ✿ Planting a variety of warm-season grasses (little bluestem, side-oats grama, Indiangrass, and buffalograss) whenever an area was ready, even if the timing was not right
- ✿ Planting a variety of wildflowers, even if the timing was not ideal (such as bluebonnets, horsemint, pink evening primrose, coreopsis, and Indian blanket)
- ✿ Growing seeds collected from the new site in greenhouses at our old site (Wildflower Center Horticulturist Denise

Delaney and her team have worked hard on this project the past half-year)

- ✿ Planting buffalograss sod on areas that must have cover in a short time, especially steep slopes.

We are still learning and perfecting new techniques of native plant reestablishment in the natural classrooms of the Wildflower Center. When you visit the new facility, we hope you will come away with a greater appreciation for the many uses of native vegetation along with some ideas for using the techniques seen in our backyard in your own.



Restoring the Future

Marcia Hermann
Natural Areas Manager

Anyone involved with landscape installation after construction knows that construction schedules do not always coincide with ideal planting dates, and seeding and planting at the new Wildflower Center facility has been a constant game of "beat the clock." Some areas at the new site were not ready to be planted until after December — later than the ideal time to plant annual wildflower seeds in Texas, but too early to plant warm-season native grasses. The challenge is to restore much of the disturbed area caused by construction back to the natural vegetation and control as much erosion as possible. The horticulturists of the Wildflower Center have learned a great deal in meeting these challenges.

Lady Bird Johnson: Looking Back and Moving Forward

Time seems to ride on the wind! How can it be possible that twelve years have passed since a group of generous friends and fellow co-workers in the beautification/conservation "vineyard" joined me in establishing the National Wildflower Research Center? With a small staff we set out to unlock a few of the many secrets in the relatively unexplored world of native wildflower propagation and reestablishment.

Our goal was to become a resource, a clearing-house of information to encourage the use of native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees, where appropriate, in the public and private landscapes of North America. The reestablishment of regional wildflowers would provide a sense of place: California would look like California, Pennsylvania like Pennsylvania, and Texas like Texas.

We envisioned sharing what we learned with those in charge of the roadsides and park lands, landscapers, businesses, and home owners. Along the way, we hoped to influence the increased use of indigenous plants for two very good reasons: economic savings — through decreased mowing, lower water requirements, reduced application of fertilizers, and decreased use of pesticides — and, dear to my heart, the aesthetic value of wildflowers, bringing beauty, regionalism, and seasonal color.

Through the years, the Center has been contacted by growing numbers of home owners, gardeners, landscape architects, schools, and businesses from across the land. They have asked for information and have come to see what we're doing in our greenhouses and test plantings. This tells us that ours is a cause "whose time has come," and which claims a rightful place in the whole mosaic of environmental concerns.

As our constituency increased, though, we outgrew our original donated buildings. In addition, our location was somewhat hard to find, located on a rural farm-to-market road, and would not accommodate as many demonstration plantings as our visiting public hoped to see.

Our new facility is designed to provide a showcase for our "product" and an educational experience for our visitors. My deepest and most sincere thanks to the exceptional work of the Capital Campaign Committee and the Wildflower Center Board of Directors who have worked so long and hard to turn our dreams into reality. We are now in a position to respond to your interests and demonstrate many of the positives we have long written about and described as successful in other gardens and landscaped areas across North America.

Please come and see what we — and you — have done and tell us how we can best provide what you need. We look forward to the progress we can make together in the years ahead as we join in saving a valuable and irreplaceable natural resource and in enjoying the practical beauty of our regional native flora!

May the seeds we have planted continue to grow!

Lady Bird Johnson

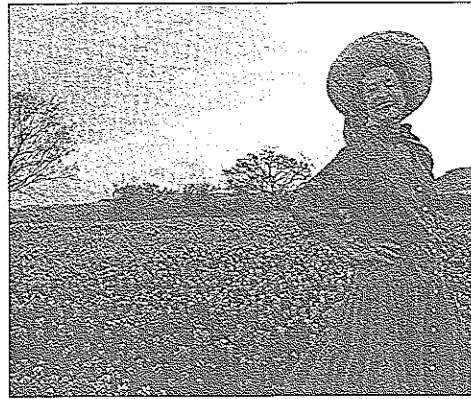


Photo courtesy of Dennis Prigot



Photo: K. Montgomery

Wildflower Center Co-Chairs Lady Bird Johnson and Helen Hayes (deceased) in 1985



Photo: J. Noy

Leaf cutting bee on *Rudbeckia hirta*, black-eyed Susan

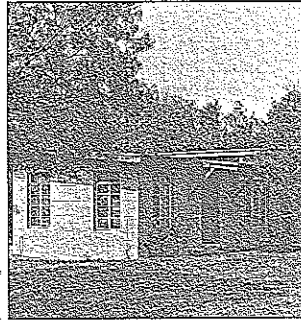


Photo: Center Photo

First home of the National Wildflower Research Center in 1982

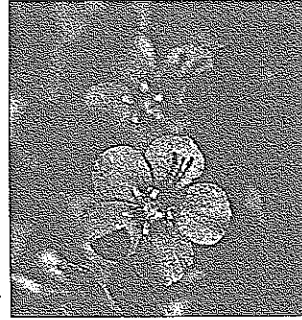


Photo: C. Cox

Anagallis arvensis, scarlet pimpernel

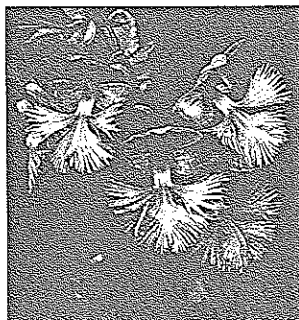


Photo: D. Brumbyard

Habenaria fimbriata, large purple fringed orchis



Photo: D. Brumbyard

Aerial view of Wildflower Center in 1987



Photo: C. Cox

Nymphaea odorata, fragrant water-lily



Photo: Center Photo

Lady Bird Johnson celebrates the Center's fifth birthday



Dear Wildflower Center Members,

With tremendous pleasure, the Education Department welcomes you to our new home. Our gardens, natural areas, and education facilities will allow us to cultivate native plant lovers and harvest our dreams. As I write this letter, exhibits for the Visitors Gallery are coming together; we are finishing maps and brochures; docent training is underway; and all the plans for the exciting spring opening and season are actively in progress.

The Visitors Gallery will be the hub of information that will enrich your outdoor experience. Thought-provoking exhibits will sharpen your knowledge and renew your appreciation for the value of native plants and plant communities across North America. Through artwork, photographs, live plants, discovery nooks, and the Native Plant Database, the Visitors Gallery has something for everyone. Exhibits include vignettes of North American ecosystems (prairies, deserts, forests...), glimpses of the many values of native plants (medical, ceremonial, agricultural...), and steps we can take to become good stewards of the Earth.

Wildflower Center docents will be the ambassadors to our visitors. Docents have taken that extra step: they have attended extensive training classes including geology, land-use history, climate, soils, plant life cycles, pollination, cultivation, habitats, and adaptations. You will see them this spring leading tours of the gardens and grounds, presenting Garden Discovery Carts, and staffing the Visitors Gallery. This fall they will be leading elementary school field-study tours and staffing the Children's Little House.

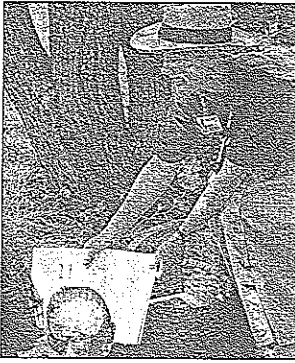
Spring begins with the Grand Opening Festival weekend April 8-9. Informative speakers, children's activities, music, and much more will be waiting for you (see Grand Opening Festival Events, page 2). Throughout spring, we will hold various adult classes including Painting Wildflowers with Watercolors, Wildflower Photography, Recycled Papermaking, and Dyeing and Weaving with Native Plant Materials. In the early summer, three weeks of day camps will guide elementary and middle school children on explorations of nature and the plant world.

Fall brings the commencement of elementary school field-study tours. Wildflower Center educators are working with a teachers advisory group to develop a grade-specific curriculum for the new site which will integrate science and liberal arts, address different learning styles, and be appropriate for any season. We will provide teacher training workshops to enable teachers to serve as docents for their students, allowing far more students to be served than can be handled solely by Center docents and staff. By drawing on teachers' expertise in preparing the curriculum, enhancing their knowledge through the training process, and involving them in teaching native plant ecology to their students, we hope to foster a commitment to imparting native plant ecology to a generation of students.

Our Children's Little House and adjoining garden will also open this fall. Here we will integrate art, literature, music, and drama into the study of the plant world. Age-specific programs will reach our youngest visitors, capitalizing on their energy and imagination through song, puppetry, storytelling, and hands-on discovery. Giant soft sculpture lilies, hand-held honeybee puppets, mural painting, and acorn contemplating will make this one of the most fun places to be!

The world of wildflowers will soon be opening up before us. Trees and grasses have begun to shimmer in the spring sunshine. We are embarking on an exciting journey to sow the seeds of our children's education, tend the forest of life-long learning, and harvest the dreams of a better environment for us all.

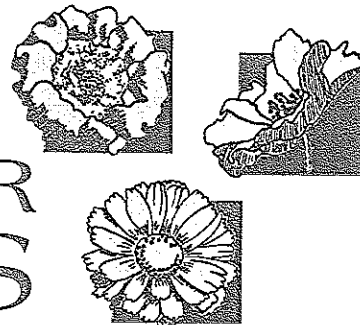
With sincere best wishes for a beautiful spring,



Wildflower Center Photo

Julie Barrett Heffington
Education Director

SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS



From the Education Department

CLASSES

- Wildflower Watercolor Painting: April 26 & 29
- Papermaking: May 20
- Wildflower Photography: June 17
- Dyeing With Native Plants: July 19-21
- Landscaping With Native Plants: August 16

SPECIAL

- Earth Day Celebration: April 22
- Native Plant Conference: May 5-7

EVENTS

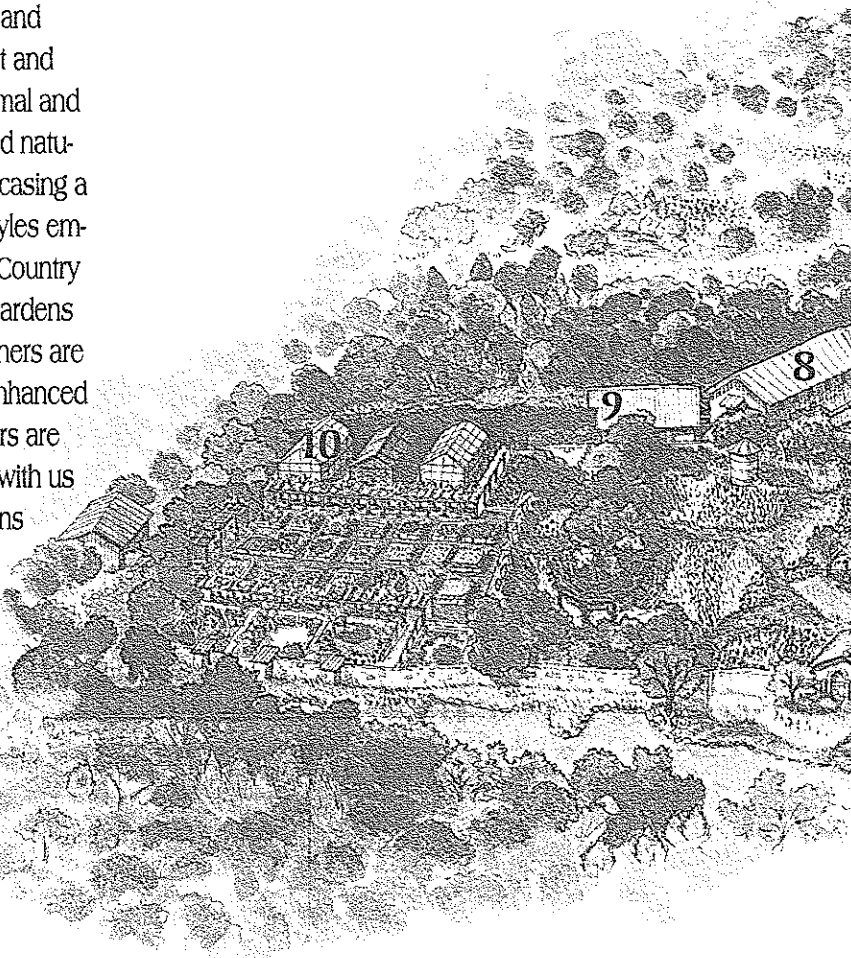
- TEEAC Teacher Workshop/Training: June 7, July 12
- Fall Planting Event: September 10

For more information, please contact the Education Department at (512) 292-4100.

A Walk on the *wild* Side: The

The gardens of the Wildflower Center present a study in contrasts: the contrast between open and closed space; between light and dark; sunny and shady; formal and informal; human-created and natural. They do so while showcasing a wide range of landscape styles emphasizing native Texas Hill Country plants. Some areas of the gardens are left in a natural state; others are at various levels of being enhanced or restored; and many others are completely created. Come with us on a tour of the main gardens of the Wildflower Center.

*Denise Delaney
Horticulturist*



Gateway to the Gardens



The Entrance Walk is the gateway to the gardens from the naturally landscaped parking lot area. The plantings along this walkway demonstrate different habitats and include plants from the Western Edwards Plateau, a xeric (dry) garden, a restored meadow, a specimen grass planting, and other plantings that enhance the pre-existing woodland edge.

The Auditorium Water Garden, located before the archway at the end of the Entrance Walk, is designed with varying depths of water to simulate a pond and its habitats and is planted with numerous native water-loving species.

Across from the Auditorium Water Garden is the Auditorium Lobby Garden, which provides a natural private entrance to the Auditorium. Framed by the arches of the sandstone aqueduct, this garden is reminiscent of an old mission.

The Courtyard



The sandstone archway at the end of the Entrance Walk brings a transition from the enhanced natural area of the Entrance Walk to the human-created space of the Courtyard, offering the first full view of the complex. Within this large area, intimate spaces are created by terraces and tree canopies. Boulders and limestone ledges create the terracing here and throughout the

gardens. At the Courtyard's center is the Courtyard Spring, a wellspring much like one a hiker might discover in the Hill Country. Trees appear to rise through cracks in the stone and little planting pockets appear randomly, giving this formal space a more relaxed feeling.

Adjacent to the Children's Little House, is a garden created especially for our younger visitors. Plants in this garden were chosen for their appealing sensory aspects, interesting folklore, and general fun to help educate young children and spark their curiosity about plants and their role in nature.

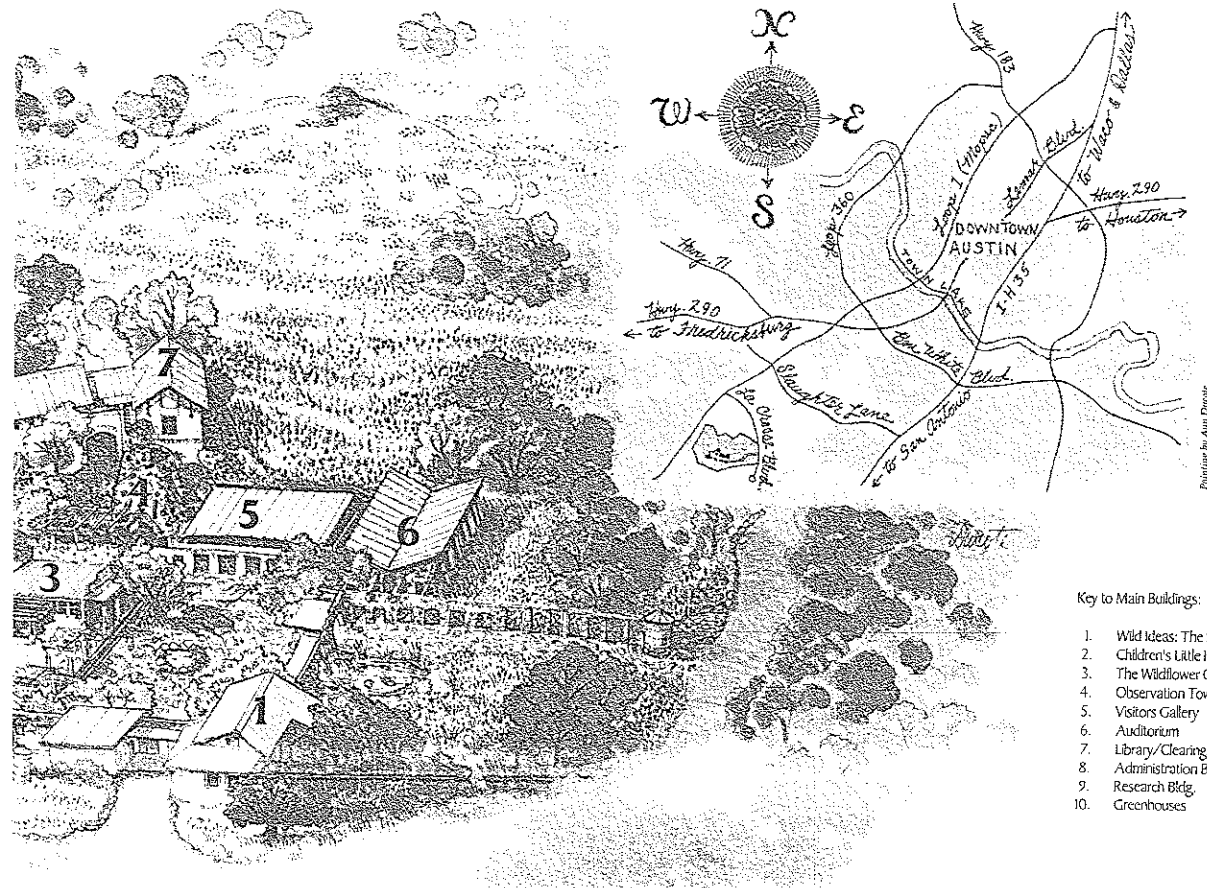
Commons Seed Court Bands



An arbor serves as the gateway into the grassy Commons area in the center of the complex where a series of gardens is connect-



Gardens of the Wildflower Center



Key to Main Buildings:

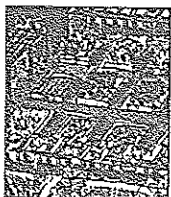
1. Wild Ideas: The Store
2. Children's Little House
3. The Wildflower Cafe
4. Observation Tower
5. Visitors Gallery
6. Auditorium
7. Library/Clearinghouse
8. Administration Bldg
9. Research Bldg
10. Greenhouses

ed by bands of colorful plants. Each of these distinct gardens possesses a unique attribute: the Cafe Garden with its reflection pond; the Administration Building Garden with its distinctive and dynamic gravity flow water feature; the Sun Garden, near the base of the Tower, planted with species that thrive in hot, sunny, and parched environments; the Seed Silo Garden highlighted by a 15' x 15' seed silo intended for future seed storage; the Meditation Garden with its graceful, handcrafted wooden pergola.

The Meditation Garden, the largest of the interior gardens, provides plenty of places to stop and contemplate the world as soothing sounds of water waft from a nearby water feature. Recently planted with young trees, this garden will eventually highlight shade-loving species.

Display Gardens

The final major garden area is found by following the crushed granite path through a massive limestone wall to a three-terraced area.



The highest terrace contains the three Home Comparison Gardens, designed to demonstrate two different home landscape styles and compare the costs over time of using natives versus non-natives.

One Comparison Garden will be planted as a typical, formally designed yard using common non-native trees, shrubs, flowers, and turfgrass (such as St. Augustine grass). The other two gardens will be planted with native species — one duplicating the look of the typical yard by using native plants (including a buffalograss lawn area) and the other using native species to give a more naturalistic look. All three gardens will be monitored for water use, the maintenance required, and cost of fertilizers, pesticides, and plant replacement.

The middle terrace houses the Display Gardens. Composed of 23 distinct theme gardens, the Display Gardens show some of the different uses of native plants. Proposed theme gardens include a garden of Native American medicinal plants, plants used for natural dyes, a fragrance garden, a sensory garden for physically challenged visitors, a hummingbird garden, a succulent garden, and a garden of night-flowering plants.

The third level is occupied by two greenhouses and a shadehouse. Plants will be propagated in these greenhouses for landscaping or other uses on the site.

The Member's Garden is located next to the Home Comparison Gardens. This perfect photo spot will be dedicated the afternoon of April 2.

Wildflower Meadow



Although officially not a garden, the Meadow is the centerpiece of the grounds, and can be viewed from various perspectives. The Visitors Gallery, the Gallery balcony, or the Overlook Garden provides a sweeping view. From the top of the Tower or the second level of the Library, a bird's-eye view is offered. Walking the Nature Trail satisfies those who prefer an up-close experience.

The Meadow is the best example of restoration and enhancement. Many species in the Meadow were on the site before construction, while others were relocated from other areas to restore the Meadow to a pre-settlement look. Seeds were sown to enhance drifts of color throughout the year.

Go Wild With Center Gifts

Joe Hammer
Products Manager

Imagine yourself surrounded by columbines, black-eyed Susans, and hundreds of other wildflowers. Picture yourself learning about each plant, its origin, native range, uses, and folklore. Could you be at the Wildflower Center? Of course. At Wild Ideas, the Center's new gift store? Definitely!

Wild Ideas has more than 900 square feet filled with gifts, books, apparel, and stationery depicting native plants. Native plant information packets for most states are offered for sale in the store, as well as a selection of seeds native to Central Texas. All proceeds from the store benefit the programs of the Center.

The store provides plenty of instruction for the shopper and browser. Every item has been certified by staff botanists as representative of flora indigenous to North America, and each shelf contains labels discussing the plants shown on various products. An expanded children's section introduces young visitors to the wonders of botany with books, games, and educational kits. A number of book signings and related lectures by authors are planned for the Grand Opening Festival Weekend and through the year.

A centerpiece of Wild Ideas is the huge book department. One of the largest selections of wildflower and native plant books in North America is offered, from detailed gardening books and field guides to books about wildflower appreciation: how to look at them, photograph them, press them, paint them — or serve them for dinner! A special feature of the store is the art print and poster department, with unframed and framed native plant art from across the United States.

The apparel section presents an impressive selection of wearable wildflowers on T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, jewelry and accessories. Nearly all clothing items contain descriptions of the plants depicted on them.

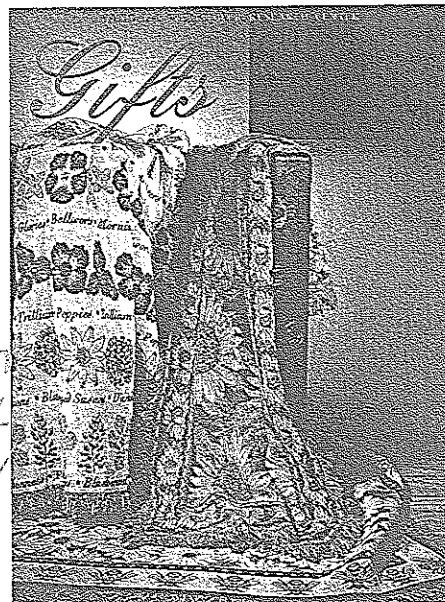
For those who wish to send wildflowers through the mail, our stationery section offers everything from writing papers and notecards to invitations and postcards, all with designs of native plants. Postage stamps are available. Other services include gift packaging, shipping, gift certificates, and special orders.

The new facility provides ample room for the mail order department, which ships orders across the nation and to many foreign countries. (A toll free number will be available soon.) Shirley Robuck, Products Coordinator, looks forward to the improvements, and notes that "we'll be able to respond to customer demand *much* more efficiently." In addition to the expanded mail order area, a convenient sales floor plan accommodates large crowds comfortably during festivals and special events.

General gifts and decorative accessories cover the store's largest area. Of special interest is the wildflower china produced by Fitz and Floyd under a licensing agreement with the Wildflower Center. About twenty products are Center exclusives, including notecards and a Battersea box, and a number of items carry the Center's distinctive logo.

Visitors to Wild Ideas are expected to learn something while they shop. Volunteers will explain the flowers depicted on merchandise and customers will occasionally be challenged at the checkout counter to "name that plant" — and receive a discount for doing so correctly.

The store, staffed almost entirely with volunteers, is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. To place a catalog order, please call (512) 292-4300.



gift ideas for you and your friends to have or give



Catalog covers and product photo courtesy of Dennis Eagan

THE NEW WILDFLOWER CENTER: The *Natural* Choice for Any Event

Pamme Mickelson
Facility Sales Manager

The new Wildflower Center facility is not only the foremost location to view wildflowers in planned landscapes, but the perfect venue for an event — from corporate meetings and conferences to class reunions and weddings. The multitude of gardens, courtyards, and terraces offer endless opportunities to plan a special occasion. The buildings complement the gardens and reflect a Texas ambiance with the use of native stone and elegant wood ceilings and floors. This variety of space makes the Center the natural choice for a variety of social events.

For meeting space, the Center's Auditorium is without equal in Austin for comfort, size, and state-of-the-art equipment. The 232 padded seats, all with flip-top desks, are tiered for maximum visibility. Entrances located at all corners provide easy access to the many gardens, groves, and

ponds, while ample foyer space allows for registration and breaks. Below the Auditorium is an additional space that can be used as one large classroom or two smaller breakout rooms. Any event can be customized with notepads, pencils, and other supplies from Wild Ideas, the Center gift store.

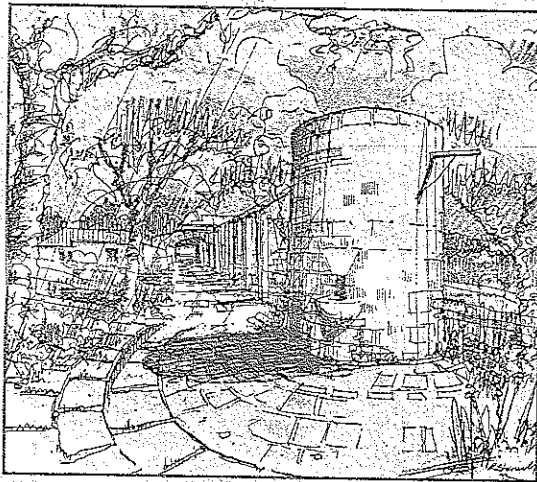
Gala events can be held in several locations throughout the Center. The striking Visitors Gallery is a unique option. A two-story, floor-to-ceiling glass wall overlooks the magnificent Wildflower Meadow and the Oak Grove. Guests can dance under the stars in the Courtyard, where an orchestra or a

country swing band would feel equally at home. For maximum protection, a tent can be erected in the Courtyard.

For more intimate parties, the Library, with its panoramic windows, offers a fine example of traditional Texas-style architecture, while the Wildflower Cafe, the Roof-Top Terrace, and the Tower make a dynamic trio for cocktails, dinner parties, or any kind of festive celebration.

The Center's strong focus on ecology and recycling is supported in all facility rental policies, both for clients and caterers. Use of helium balloons, plasticware, and other environmentally harmful products is not allowed.

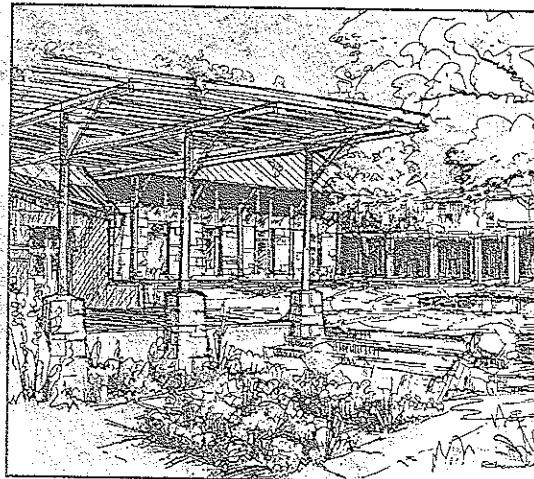
All proceeds from facilities rental benefit the programs of the Wildflower Center and contribute to their growth. For additional information about facility rental, contact Pamme Mickelson, Facility Sales Manager, at (512) 292-4200.



Visitor entrance and aqueduct



Visitor walkway



Cafe patio and courtyard

Wildflower Stars!

Special thanks to our Capital Campaign donors...

The National Wildflower Research Center owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to all the individuals, foundations, and corporations who have provided support to the Capital Campaign.

All Capital Campaign contributors, including Paving Stone and Plank level donors, are featured in a special book displayed in the Library. There are too many names to list here, but we do appreciate you!

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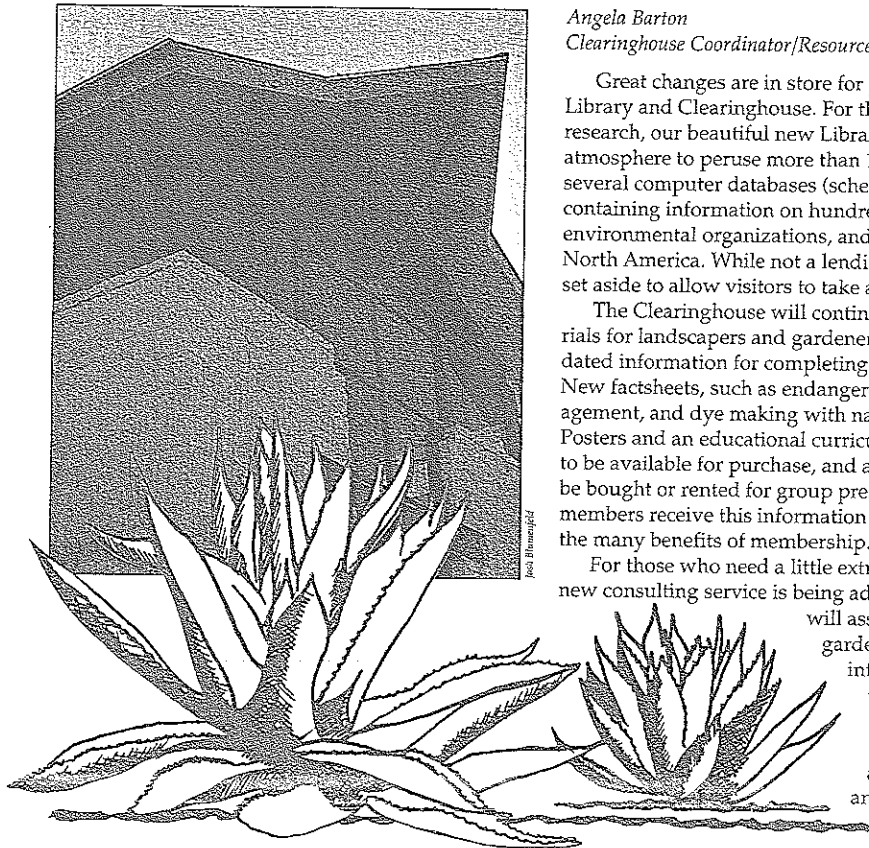
Every effort has been taken to accurately acknowledge our donors. We regret any errors or exclusions. For inquiries or corrections, please contact the Development Office at (512) 292-4200.

Members: You make it happen!

The support of our members is the foundation on which the National Wildflower Research Center is built. Members as of April 1, 1995, will be acknowledged in a special book on display in our Library.

We are proud to have you in our family, and hope you will visit us often!

Clearinghouse NOTES



Angela Barton
Clearinghouse Coordinator/Resource Botanist

Great changes are in store for you as we move to the new Library and Clearinghouse. For those wanting to do their own research, our beautiful new Library will provide a comfortable atmosphere to peruse more than 1,500 books, 200 periodicals, and several computer databases (scheduled to come on line in 1996) containing information on hundreds of native plant species, environmental organizations, and native plant nurseries across North America. While not a lending library, specific hours will be set aside to allow visitors to take advantage of all our information.

The Clearinghouse will continue to provide educational materials for landscapers and gardeners who need concise and updated information for completing any native planting project. New factsheets, such as endangered species, integrated pest management, and dye making with native plants, are being written. Posters and an educational curriculum for teachers will continue to be available for purchase, and a variety of slide programs can be bought or rented for group presentations. Wildflower Center members receive this information at a discounted rate as one of the many benefits of membership.

For those who need a little extra help with planting projects, a new consulting service is being added. Through this service, we will assist you with landscaping and gardening ideas or finding in-depth information about a particular topic. Please contact the

Library and Clearinghouse at (512) 292-4200 for details about consulting fees, holdings, and visitor hours.

VOLUNTEERS

Our Heart

Peggy Budd
Director of Volunteer Services

When you visit the Wildflower Center, you will see some very attractive folks wearing dark green vests or aprons and sporting special name tags. They will surely be wearing a smile as well, and will be doing their level best to make your visit a pleasant one. These great people are our Wildflower Center volunteers!

Volunteers have played an integral role in the growth and productivity of the Center since its inception. Wonderful friends from Austin and surrounding communities have assisted in many ways through the years. Now that we have a much larger, more complex setting, our volunteers are even more important to the operation of the facility.

When the Center first opened its doors, volunteers came from two community organizations: the

Junior League of Austin and RSVP—Retired Senior Volunteer Program. As needs increased, recruitment throughout the community also grew. Today, the Center boasts a crew of more than 300 volunteers representing a wide spectrum of people: teachers, both active and

employees from major corporations such as Motorola and Southern Union Gas Company.

In case you are wondering just what Wildflower Center volunteers do, picture this: when you come to visit the Center, you will be greeted by a volunteer. When

and Soul

a specially trained volunteer docent, and when you visit our gift store, a volunteer will assist you. If you order materials from the Clearinghouse, they are prepared by volunteers and staff.

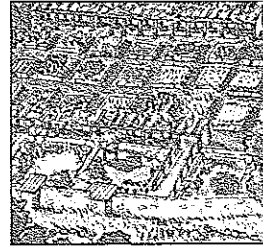
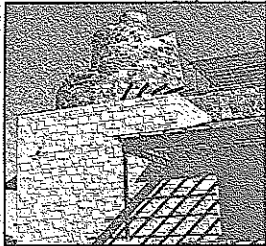
If you live in the Austin area and would like to join this great group, or are going to be visiting the Austin area for an extended period and would like to help, contact Peggy Budd, Director of Volunteer Services. Volunteers are given excellent training to prepare them for their chosen assignments. Remember, volunteers receive great benefits: an individual pass for free admission to the Center; a bimonthly volunteer newsletter; superior working conditions; and the opportunity to work with the nicest people in North America — fellow volunteers, visitors, and staff.



retired; young people from schools and scouting organizations with energy and enthusiasm; retired executives; homemakers of all ages; pipeline workers; and em-

ployees from major corporations such as Motorola and Southern Union Gas Company. When you walk through the acres of gardens, you will see volunteers tending various demonstration flower beds. When you take a tour of the grounds, you will be led by

The Wildflower Center Staff



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Page 1

🌸 **Looking Forward**
Page 4

🌸 **Gardens Guide**
Page 6-7

Center Hours:

Grounds

Tuesday - Sunday
9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Visitors Gallery

Tuesday - Saturday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Wild Ideas: The Store

Tuesday - Saturday
9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The Wildflower Cafe

Tuesday - Saturday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Center and Membership Information:

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