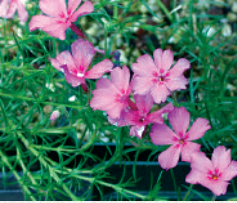


Preserving Imperiled Plants

Plant Conservation Program



MERCER
Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

Connecting people with plants



Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens



When Thelma and Charles Mercer sold Harris County Precinct 4 their 14-acre homestead along Cypress Creek in 1974, the garden paradise was home to many native plant species, including dogwood, rusty black-haw viburnum, hawthorn, as well as many other native East Texas trees.

Three decades later, those native plants and trees can still be found on the grounds of Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens. This nationally-recognized arboretum and botanic gardens is home to the Gulf Coast region's largest collection of native and cultivated plants, and has evolved into a leader in plant conservation and restoration.

In keeping with Thelma and Charles' work to preserve native plant species, Mercer promotes a two-part mission: conservation education and applied conservation. In 1994, the Endangered Species Garden was founded,



and Mercer has cultivated this home for threatened and endangered native plant species by teaming with the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC).

Mercer is the only botanic garden in the upper Gulf Coast region certified to care for the CPC's National Collection of Endangered Plants and currently serves as a leader in the care of 24 threatened or endangered species. Additionally, the botanic garden is host to several rare native plant species from botanic facilities around the nation.

THREATENED OR ENDANGERED NATIVE PLANT SPECIES UNDER MERCER'S CARE

The species listed below are currently on state watch lists. Many are federally listed as either threatened, species of concern, or endangered.



Dana Price and
Jason Singhurst

Figwort Family,
Scrophulariaceae
Navasota False Foxglove
(*Agalinis navasotensis*)
Blooms: Summer
Native habitat: East Texas



Suzanne Chapman

Four O' Clock Family,
Nyctaginaceae
Large-fruited Sand Verbena
(*Abronia macrocarpa*)
Blooms: Spring
Native habitat: East-Central Texas
Sponsored: 1990



Robert George

Gentian Family, Gentianaceae
Texas Screwstem
(*Bartonia texana*)
Blooms: Fall
Native habitat: East Texas and
Louisiana



Suzanne Chapman

Sunflower Family, Asteraceae
Rough-stem Aster
(*Aster puniceus* var. *scabricaulis* /
Symphotrichum puniceum var.
scabricaulis)
Blooms: Fall
Native habitat: East Texas,
Louisiana, and Mississippi



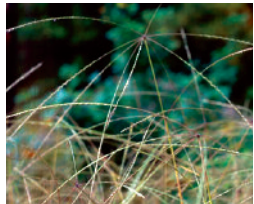
IMPERILED PLANT SPECIES

Out of the nation's 20,000 native plant species, already 200 species have become extinct and over 730 species are federally listed as endangered or threatened. Loss of habitat, introduction of foreign species, and over-collection are just a few of the reasons the population is imperiled. Loss of native plant species weakens the natural ecosystem, reduces the beauty and diversity around us, and depletes an irreplaceable gene pool that may hold the cures for diseases.



Joe Liggio

Orchid Family, Orchidaceae
Southern Lady's Slipper
(Cypripedium kentuckiense)
Blooms: Spring to summer
Native habitat: East Texas and Southeastern U.S.



Greg Wieland

Grass Family, Poaceae
Texas Windmill-grass
(Chloris texensis)
Blooms: Fall
Native habitat: East Texas, including the Houston area



Suzanne Chapman

Mallow Family, Malvaceae
Neches River Rose-mallow
(Hibiscus dasycalyx)
Blooms: Summer
Native habitat: Central and East Texas



Suzanne Chapman

Sunflower Family, Asteraceae
White Fire-wheel
(Gaillardia aestivalis var. winkleri)
Blooms: Spring to fall
Native habitat: East Texas



A HOME FOR ENDANGERED PLANTS

Renovated in 2002, the Endangered Species Garden is not only home to threatened or endangered annual and perennial native plant species, but also serves as an important teaching tool to the more than 100,000 visitors to Mercer each year. A replica of a beaver dam and pond serve as the focal point for the woodland and wetland habitats, and common native plant species complement the rare native species on display.

Awarded the Best of Backyard Habitats certificate of merit by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the National Wildlife Federation in 2004, the garden serves as an educational tool for the importance of “wildscaping,” demonstrating the use of permanent water and food sources, composting, and organic management methods for the benefit of wildlife. The garden also routinely serves as an outdoor classroom for Master Gardener and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Master Naturalist classes and workshops.



Suzanne Chapman

Quillwort Family, Isoetaceae
Louisiana Quillwort
(*Isoetes louisianensis*)
Non-flowering perennial and a relative of ferns
Native habitat: Louisiana and Mississippi



Suzanne Chapman

Sunflower Family, Asteraceae
Prairie Dawn
(*Hymenoxys texana*)
Blooms: Spring
Native habitat: East Texas, including the Houston area
Sponsored: 2004



WORKING TOGETHER FOR RESTORATION

CPC's mission is to preserve local plant habitat and restore America's threatened or endangered native plants to the wild. Its national gene bank of rare U.S. species is one of the largest collections of rare plants in the world. Mercer has been working with the CPC since 1989 and is one of 34 botanic facilities in the nation that maintains CPC's National Collection of Endangered Plants. Mercer provides technical guidance and assists with the restoration and maintenance of these rare plant populations. Mercer also serves as a rescue holding center for rare plants from local and out-of-state partners. Mercer staff and volunteers assist with rare plant monitoring, seed collection, and processing, as well as propagation and on-site maintenance. For more information on the CPC, visit www.centerforplantconservation.org.



Bill Carr and Bruce Sorrie

Corkwood Family, Leitneriaceae
Corkwood
(*Leitnaria floridana*)
Blooms: Late winter to early spring
Fruits: Late summer to fall
Native habitat: Southeast Texas,
including the Houston and Galveston
area, parts of southeast U.S.



Suzanne Chapman

Mustard Family, Brassicaceae
Texas Golden Glade Cress
(*Leavenworthia aurea* var. *texana*)
Blooms: Spring
Native habitat: East Texas



WE NEED YOUR HELP

From collecting endangered seeds in the wild to carefully cultivating and restoring a plant's gene pool, plant conservation is exacting and costly. Although Mercer receives annual maintenance funds from the CPC to support plant restoration for several species, additional funding is needed to care for the remaining collection of threatened or endangered plant species. Donations go to funding field equipment, travel costs, seed cleaning, packaging supplies, and horticultural supplies.



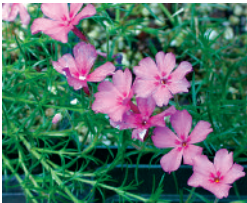
Alfred Schotz

Sunflower Family, Asteraceae
Slender Gay Feather
(*Liatris tenuis*)
Blooms: Summer
Native habitat: East Texas and Louisiana



Suzanne Chapman

Mustard Family, Brassicaceae
White Bladderpod
(*Lesquerella pallida*)
Blooms: Spring
Native habitat: East Texas
Sponsored: 1999



Suzanne Chapman

Phlox Family, Polemoniaceae
Texas Trailing Phlox
(*Phlox nivalis* ssp. *texensis*)
Blooms: Spring
Native habitat: East Texas
Sponsored: 2003



Joe Ditto

Laurel Family, Lauraceae
Pondberry
(*Lindera melissifolia*)
Blooms: Spring
Fruits: Fall
Native habitat: Southeastern U.S.
Sponsored: 2001



Jason Singhurst

Mint Family, Lamiaceae
Long-sepaled False Dragon-head
(*Physostegia longisepala*)
Blooms: Spring to summer
Native habitat: East Texas and Louisiana



Suzanne Chapman

Mint Family, Lamiaceae
Correll's False Dragon-head
(*Physostegia correllii*)
Blooms: Summer
Native habitat: Louisiana. Possibly extinct from South and East Texas.
Status unknown in Mexico.



Latimore Smith

Sunflower Family, Asteraceae
Bog Coneflower
(*Rudbeckia scabrifolia*)
Blooms: Summer to fall
Native habitat: East Texas and Louisiana



Suzanne Chapman

Sunflower Family, Asteraceae
Houston Camphor Daisy
(*Rayjacksonia aurea*)
Blooms: Fall
Native habitat: Southeast Texas, including the Houston area



Jason Singhurst

Buttercup Family, Ranunculaceae
Texas Meadow Rue
(*Thalictrum texanum*)
Blooms: Early spring
Native habitat: East Texas, including the Houston area



Suzanne Chapman

Pink Family, Caryophyllaceae
Scarlet Catchfly
(*Silene subciliata*)
Blooms: Summer to fall
Native habitat: East Texas and Louisiana



Karen Clary

Agave Family, Agavaceae
Glen Rose Yucca
(*Yucca necopina*)
Blooms: Spring
Native habitat: Northeast-Central Texas



Suzanne Chapman

Lily Family, Liliaceae
Texas Trillium
(*Trillium texanum* / *Trillium pusillum* var. *texanum*)
Blooms: Spring
Native habitat: East Texas and Louisiana

Thank you!

ENDANGERED PLANT SPONSORS AT MERCER

The Garden Club of Houston
John Koros Memorial
Kingwood Garden Club
The Edward K. Love Conservation Foundation
Harris County Precinct 4 Mercer Memorial
Trust Fund
The Mercer Society
The Quaker Hill Foundation
The River Oaks Garden Club
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

David C. Berkshire
Suzanne Chapman in honor of Ann C. Baumer
and Derek Chapman
Mrs. Alice C. Fick in memory of
Kenneth C. Beighley
Carol Kobb in memory of Millie Guadino
Mr. Frank A. Liddel, Jr.
Mrs. and Dr. Charles F. Squire
Mrs. and Dr. Sellers J. Thomas, Jr.
Anita Tiller in memory of Ruth L. and
Werner G. Tiller

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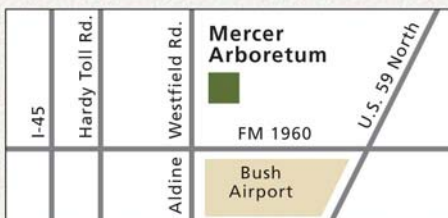
Hours of Operation

Summer Hours (CST)
Monday - Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Winter Hours (CST)
Daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



R. Jack Cagle, Commissioner



Sponsor an Endangered Plant Today!

Sponsorship is a great way for individuals, families, clubs, and organizations to play an active role in conserving Texas plants. Sponsors can choose to honor a special someone in their lives through donations and are recognized in Precinct 4 publications and events referencing their species, honored on plaques at Mercer, receive gifts of appreciation, and are featured on the Mercer Web site at www.hcp4.net/mercer/conservation. Sponsors also receive national recognition and updates about the status of their sponsored species from the CPC's home office at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri.

I/my group wants to support local conservation. Please accept a donation of: (Check appropriate box.)

\$200 \$500 \$1,000 \$5,000 \$10,000 (full sponsorship) Other amount _____

Please apply the donation toward _____ OR Please select a plant species for me/our group.




[NAME OF PLANT SPECIES]

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail check payable to The Center for Plant Conservation to:

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens  Conservation Manager  22306 Aldine Westfield Road  Humble, Texas 77338-1071