



N A T I O N A L  
W A S P ♦ W W I I  
M U S E U M

# **Some Background on the WASP and the WASP Museum**

- **The Women Airforce Service Pilots were est. during WWII to carry out non-combat flying duties, stateside.**
- **Duties included everything from ferrying aircraft to pilot/crew training and helping with advanced combat training.**
- **The vast majority of them trained at Avenger Field in Sweetwater**
- **In 2005, a museum was established to honor those women**
- **I became involved with the museum in 2022 and one of the things I was asked to help with was the landscaping.**



National WASP  
WWII Museum









**When the Museum added a second building. They hired a local landscaping company to give them a “low maintenance” landscape. This was all planted in the fall of 2020**





**Drainage was and issue**





**The Orange oval:**

- red yuccas
- Knock Out roses

**Yellow circles:**

- Mexican feather grass





**Dry creek bed created in the existing gully.  
Rocks arranged to direct water coming into the creek bed.  
Some terracing in the planting bed.**



## **Planted Frogfruit**

- **native groundcover.**
- **helps hold the soil**
- **works as green mulch.**
- **host plant for butterflies**
- **provides nectar**
- **needs very little water**
- **can handle full, all-day, Texas sun.**





## Poor soil was another problem

The previous landscapers used the existing dirt.

Fill dirt used to create the foundation for the new building: think heavy clay.

I did amend some, but since I was planning on using native plants, I didn't want it to be too rich.

The plan was to use mulch. But then we discovered the next problem. . .





## **The WIND**

### **The Mulch Challenge:**

**Pine bark mulch – blew away**

**Cypress mulch – blew away**

**Decomposed granite – blew away**

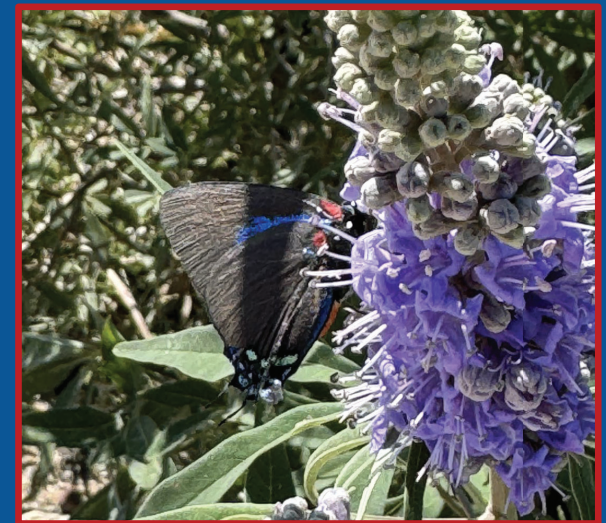
**Other problem: blew smaller plants  
right out of the soil.**

**Upside: Wildflower seeds blow in,  
but also weed and grass seeds**

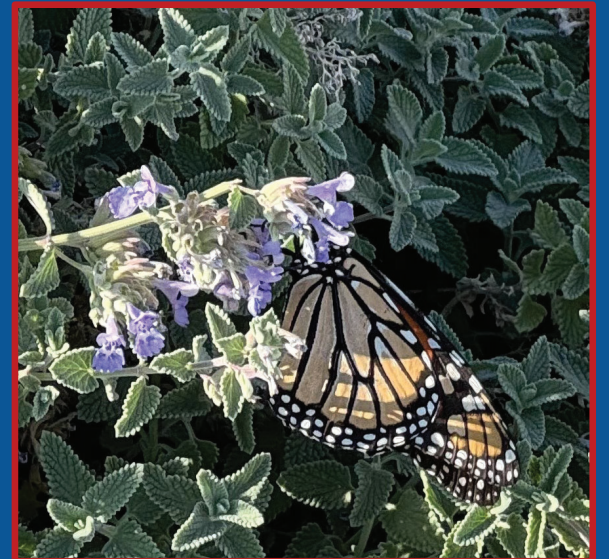
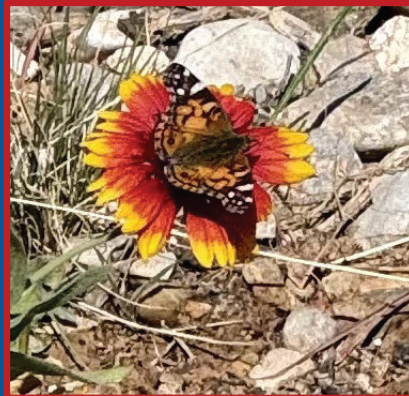
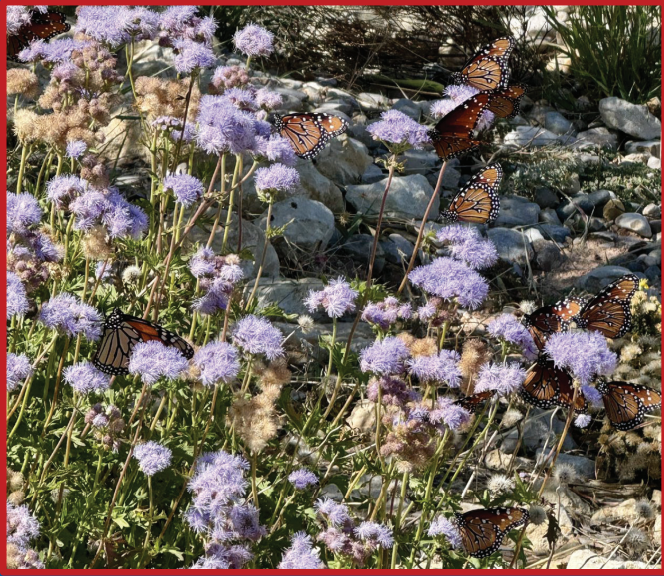


## My Philosophy:

- A weed is just a plant that is in the wrong place.
- If it gives me a pretty flower, its NOT a weed.
- If it is non-native and invasive. It's a weed.
- If it has stickers or burrs. It's a weed.
- If you want to successfully garden for pollinators and wildlife, your garden needs to be messy.









## **The Human Factor**

**Last year my biggest challenge was people who were hired to spray and mow, who didn't know what they are doing.**

### **Examples:**

- **Don't weed-wack flower beds and especially NOT the state flower of Texas.**
- **Herbicides blow in the wind.**



# Plant List

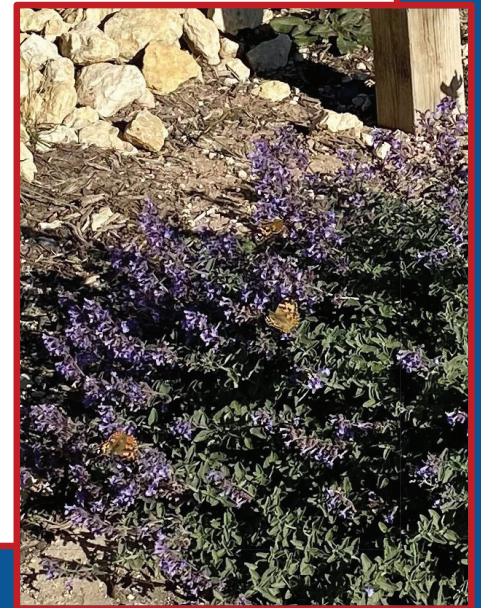
## Native plants

- Desert willow
- Texas sage
- Plains and thread leaf coreopsis
- Blackfoot and four nerve daisies
- Frogfruit
- Salvia greggii – red
- Flame acanthus
- Greg's mistflower
- Bluebonnets
- Prairie pinks
- Gallardia



## Non-Natives

- Vitex
- Catmint
- Russian sage







**Come see us at the WASP Museum**

**Tuesday--Saturday 10:00 – 5:00**

**Adults: \$10 Veterans and Active Duty: \$8**

**Kids 17 and under: \$5 Kids 4 and under: free**