



Crockett County

Interpretive Trail

About the Trail

Welcome to the Crockett County Interpretive Trail!

This is an interpretation of plant material in its native habitat within a 100 mile radius of Ozona. The trail includes a Rain Harvest Exhibit with signage on the process of collecting water for landscaping, livestock watering or home use. There is also a wildlife viewing area and a watering hole for birds and butterflies.

Ozona Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center



The purpose of this project is to educate local and regional residents, and visitors across the country about the importance of water conservation, and the use of native plants.

Plants are part of our heritage and the trail system encourages the protection, preservation and respect of their contribution to our every day lives. They provide food, fiber, shelter, and are used for medicinal and ceremonial purposes. Plants play a key environmental role for pollination, feeding livestock, and oxygen.

Additional information about the Interpretive Trail and the Rain Harvest Exhibit can be found inside the Visitor Center.

Thank You for visiting our site, and PLEASE invite your friends and family to stop by as well.



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Alphabetical listing of all plants in the trail

Prairie Acacia	Turner's Hawthorn
<i>Acacia angustissima</i>	<i>Crataegus turnerorum</i>
Guajillo	Golden Dalea
<i>Acacia berlandieri</i>	<i>Dalea aurea</i>
Whitethorn Acacia	Black Dalea
<i>Acacia constricta</i>	<i>Dalea frutescens</i>
Catclaw, Gregg Acacia	Gregg's Dalea
<i>Acacia greggii</i>	<i>Dalea greggii</i>
White Brush	Sotol, Desert Spoon
<i>Aloysia gratissima</i>	<i>Dasyllirion wheeleri</i>
Sand Sage	Texas Persimmon
<i>Artemisia filifolia</i>	<i>Diospyros texana</i>
Prairie Sage	Horse Crippler
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	<i>Echinocactus texensis hopfferi</i>
Fourwing Saltbush	Strawberry Pitaya
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	<i>Echinocereus enneacanthus</i>
Anacacho Orchid Tree	Lace Cactus
<i>Bauhinia lunarioides</i>	<i>Echinocereus reichenbachii</i>
Chocolate Flower	Mormon Tea
<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	<i>Ephedra viridis</i>
Fairy Duster	Candelilla
<i>Calliandra eriophylla</i>	<i>Euphorbia antisyphilitica</i>
Winecup	Texas Kidneywood
<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	<i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>
Sundrops	Apache Plume
<i>Calylophus hartwegii ssp. fendleri</i>	<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>
Granjeno, Desert Hackberry	Cliff Fendlerbush
<i>Celtis ehrenbergiana</i>	<i>Fendlera rupicola</i>
Texas Redbud "Ozona"	Texas Barrel Cactus
<i>Cercis canadensis var. texensis "Ozona"</i>	<i>Ferocactus hamatacanthus</i>
Mountain Mahogany	Narrow-leaf Forestiera
<i>Cercocarpus montanus var. argenteus</i>	<i>Forestiera angustifolia</i>
Desert Willow	Ocotillo
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	<i>Fouquieria splendens</i>
Damianita	Gregg's Ash
<i>Chrysactinia mexicana</i>	<i>Fraxinus greggii</i>
Gregg's Blue Mistflower	Verbena
<i>Conoclinium greggii</i>	<i>Glandularia bipinnatifida</i>

(Common Name/Scientific Name)

Red Yucca	Prairie Phlox
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>
Hog Potato, Indian Rush-pea	Honey Mesquite
<i>Hoffmannseggia glauca</i>	<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>
Indigofera	Wafer Ash
<i>Indigofera lindheimeriana</i>	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>
Creosote Bush	Vasey Oak
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	<i>Quercus vaseyana</i>
Goldenball Leadtree	Three Leaf Sumac
<i>Leucaena retusa</i>	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>
Cenzio, Purple Sage	Evergreen Sumac
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	<i>Rhus virens</i>
Gayfeather	Buffalo Currant
<i>Liatris spp.</i>	<i>Ribes aureum</i>
White Honeysuckle	Mejorana Blue Shrub Sage
<i>Lonicera albiflora</i>	<i>Salvia ballotiflora</i>
Agarito, Algerita	Mealy Blue Sage
<i>Mahonia trifoliolata</i>	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>
Blackfoot Daisy	Autumn Sage
<i>Melampodium leucanthum</i>	<i>Salvia greggii</i>
Showy Menodora	Velvet Leaf Senna
<i>Menodora longiflora</i>	<i>Senna lindheimeriana</i>
Fragrant Mimosa	Texas Mountain Laurel, Mescal Bean
<i>Mimosa borealis</i>	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>
Lindheimer's Muhly	Copper Mallow
<i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i>	<i>Sphaeralcea angustifolia</i>
Devil's Shoestring	Mexican Buckeye
<i>Nolina lindheimeriana</i>	<i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>
Sacahuista, Beargrass	Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye
<i>Nolina microcarpa</i>	<i>Viguiera stenoloba</i>
Scarlet Muskflower, Devil's Bouquet	Zexmenia
<i>Nyctaginia capitata</i>	<i>Wedelia texana</i>
Pink Evening Primrose	Banana Yucca
<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>	<i>Yucca baccata</i>
Cholla	Buckley's Yucca
<i>Optuntia imbricata</i>	<i>Yucca constricta</i>
Prickly Pear	Thompson's Yucca
<i>Opuntia spp.</i>	<i>Yucca thompsoniana</i>
	Lotebush
	<i>Ziziphus obtusifolia</i>



Acacia angustissima—Prairie Acacia: Round creamy flowers resemble shaving brushes. Seeds are rich in protein. Readily eaten by livestock and decreases in abundance with heavy grazing.



Acacia berlandieri—Guajillo: A spreading shrub, growing 3–15 feet tall. The flower is a source of heavy, light-colored honey, rated by many as the best in the state. The seed pods are 3–5 inches long and 1 inch or more wide.



Acacia constricta—Whitethorn Acacia: A 9-15 ft., multi-trunked tree with small, yellow-orange balls of fragrant flowers. Finely segmented, pinnate leaves fall off during dry seasons. 2-4 in. beans ripen to bright red.



Acacia greggii—Catclaw, Gregg Acacia: One of the most despised southwestern shrubs. As indicated by the common names (including the Spanish, una degato), the sharp, stout, hooked spines, like a cat's claws, tear clothing and flesh.



Aloysia gratissima—White Brush: A fragrant, slender, erect shrub to 10 ft. with squarish stems. Flowers small, white, crowded on spikes up to 3 inches long from March to November. A honey plant, good browse for wildlife.



Artemisia filifolia—Sand Sage: A semi-evergreen shrub with feathery, silver-blue foliage. The whole plant is sweetly pungent. Good for erosion control. A hayfever plant.



Artemisia ludoviciana—Prairie Sage: A stiff, aromatic, silvery-white perennial with attractive, fragrant, whitish green foliage. Good choice for a low-maintenance groundcover. It can even take mowing.



Atriplex canescens—Fourwing Saltbush: A 3 ft. semi-evergreen shrub, which can reach 8 ft. Extremely variable shrub: compact and rounded; sprawling and low; open-branched and treelike.



Bauhinia lunarioides—Anacacho Orchid Tree: Native only to a few canyons in west central Texas and northeast Mexico. Fruit is a flattened pod. The nectar attracts butterflies and bees.



Berlandiera lyrata—Chocolate Flower: Chocolate flower is a velvety-leaved, 1-2 ft. perennial. Flowers droop in the heat of day. Chocolate odor may be detected when the rays are plucked from the flower head.



Calliandra eriophylla—Fairy Duster: Spring flowers form delicate, pink balls, giving a fluffy pink appearance. Belongs to a group of tropical woody plants that includes acacias and mimosas.



Calylophus hartwegii ssp. fendleri—Sundrops: This perennial member of the evening primrose family requires lots of sunshine. Yellow flowers bloom in April and May.



***Celtis ehrenbergiana*—Granjeno, Desert Hackberry:** This deciduous plant rarely reaches 10 ft. in height. Shiny red, orange and yellow fruit ripens in fall but persists long after leaf-fall.



***Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis* "Ozona"—Texas Redbud "Ozona":** Propagated from a redbud in Ozona. Drought and limestone soil tolerant. Showy, attractive source of honey, used in treatment of dysentery.



***Cercocarpus montanus* var. *argenteus*—Mountain Mahogany:** Often under 3.3 ft. in height because of browsing, it can reach 20 feet. The species is considered to be long lived.



***Chilopsis linearis*—Desert Willow:** A 15-40 ft., small tree or large shrub. Rapid growth, drought tolerance, and ease of maintenance. Sought-after plant within its range. Does best with just enough water to keep it blooming and healthily green.



***Chrysactinia mexicana*—Damianita:** A 1-2 ft., bushy, aromatic, evergreen shrub. Technically a shrub, it is used like a flower. Very drought tolerant. Excellent for erosion control.



***Conoclinium greggii*—Gregg's Blue Mistflower:** A perennial up to 2 ft. tall with palmate leaves. Small, purplish-blue flowers cluster together to form puffy, 2 in., cushion-like flower heads.



***Crataegus turnerorum*—Turner's Hawthorn:** White blooms. Develops like a tree into a round-shaped shrub. Not an evergreen. Turns a purple-pink color during the summer. Can reach up to 20 ft. Valuable to bees.



***Dalea aurea*—Golden Dalea:** A member of the pea family, this species grows well in rock gardens and dry soils. It is especially beneficial to native bees. Looks best in mid-summer.



***Dalea frutescens*—Black Dalea:** Thornless shrub up to 3 ft. tall; stems gray to light brown, twigs are thin, reddish brown. Small, purple flowers in dense heads or spikes at the ends of branches, from July to October. Fruit is an inconspicuous capsule.



***Dalea greggii*—Gregg's Dalea:** A 4-9 in., trailing sub-shrub, spreading 2-4 ft. A good ground cover for rocky slopes and exposed sites. Tolerates dry conditions well.



***Dasylirion wheeleri*—Sotol, Desert Spoon:** May be used to make food and liquor or woven into mats, baskets and thatching. Used in dried floral arrangements.



***Diospyros texana*—Texas Persimmon:** Shrub or small tree with very hard wood, usually multi-trunked. Male and female flowers on separate plants, appearing in March and April. Fruit fleshy, round, up to 1-in. diameter.



Echinocereus enneacanthus—Strawberry Pitaya: New stems grow as side branches, later turning upward, giving them a long, curling appearance. Bright green with a wrinkled appearance, looking withered in dry periods.



Euphorbia antisiphilitica—Candelilla, Wax Plant: Numerous, rarely branched, waxy stems resemble a cluster of slender, pale-green candles. This plant is in the same genus as the holiday favorite Poinsettia.



Fendlera rupicola—Cliff Fendlerbush: Also known as false mock orange. A member of the hydrangea family. Provides excellent browse for goats, sheep, and deer.



Fouquieria splendens—Ocotillo: Also known as Devil's walking stick. Leaves appear only after rain and wither when the soil dries. Ocotillo means little pine in Mexican Spanish.



Echinocereus reichenbachii—Lace Cactus: Starts out as a sphere and gradually evolves its cylindrical form, rarely taller than 8 in. May form one stem or branch into a dozen or more.



Eysenhardtia texana—Texas Kidneywood: An unarmed, much-branched shrub. This tree was once used in remedies for kidney and bladder ailments.



Ferocactus hamatacanthus—Texas Barrel Cactus: Also known as giant fishhook cactus. The flowers are fragrant, though one should be steady on one's feet when smelling them.



Fraxinus greggii—Gregg's Ash: Evergreen, grows to 15 ft. and 10 ft. width. Has a small winged seed and inconspicuous flowers with smooth gray bark. Drought tolerant.



Echinocactus texensis hopffer—Horse Crippler: Broader than long, is normally 1-2 inches and up to 12 inches across. Has crippled many horses. Flower is somewhat fragrant.



Fallugia paradoxa—Apache Plume: In full flower their white petals are attractive against the dark foliage. Fruit clusters with feathery, purplish tails said to resemble Apache headdress.



Forestiera angustifolia—Narrow-leaf Forestiera: Also called Elbow Bush, livestock and birds browse on its twigs and fruit. An important source of nectar for bees.



Glandularia bipinnatifida —Verbena: Spanish name, Moradilla, comes from morado ("purple") and means "little purple one." Forms brilliant displays of pink or light purple, covering acres of ground.



Hesperaloe parviflora—Red Yucca: Not a yucca, this produces soft, yucca-like, evergreen leaves. Deer browse the foliage, while flowers attract hummingbirds.



Larrea tridentata—Creosote Bush: 3-5 ft., evergreen shrub which can reach 10 ft. Decoctions from its leaves are used as antiseptics and emetics. Its pungency fills the air following rains.



Liatris punctata - Gayfeather: A long taproot makes this drought-tolerant. Can be used to treat heart pain, stomachache, improve appetite, bladder and kidney problems, or applied to swellings.



Melampodium leucanthum—Blackfoot Daisy: Low, round, bushy plant. Flower heads of 8-10 broad white rays surrounding a small yellow central disk which are solitary and terminal on slender stalks.



Hoffmannseggia glauca—Hog Potato, Indian Rush-pea: This plant has small, edible swellings on the roots that provide good nourishment for many animals and were also used as food by Native Americans. The Spanish name, Camote de Raton, means mouse's sweet potato.



Leucaena retusa—Goldenball Leadtree: Small, multi-trunked tree or large shrub, 12-15 ft. tall, which can reach 25 ft. Bark is flaky and cinnamon-colored. A good browse plant for cattle.



Lonicera albiflora—White Honeysuckle: Long, graceful, sometimes twining branches of white honeysuckle can reach 10 ft. Serves as browse for deer. Its berries attract birds.



Menodora longiflora—Showy Menodora: This plant has a long, narrow tube flower, with the stamens hidden inside the tube. Grows 12-18 inches tall.



Indigofera lindheimeriana—Indigofera: A perennial subshrub named after Ferdinand Lindheimer, who is often called the Father of Texas Botany.



Leucophyllum frutescens—Cenzio, Purple Sage: Compact shrub, 2-5 ft. tall, occasionally reaches 8 ft. in height, and 4-6 ft. in width. Popular water-conserving ornamentals in the Southwest.



Mahonia trifoliolata—Agarito, Algerita: 3-6 ft. evergreen shrub, can reach 8 ft. in favorable conditions. Wood bright yellow. Fruit a red berry, edible, appearing from May to July.



Mimosa borealis—Fragrant Mimosa: Long, slender, intricately-branched stems of this 2-6 ft. deciduous shrub. Thorns scattered along the branches. Fragrant, pink flowers occur in soft, dense ball-shaped clusters.



***Nolina lindheimeriana*—Devil's Shoestring:** Resembles a large clump of grass in the open and in light shade on limestone slopes and cliffs. Flowers about 3/16 inch wide, white to cream, numerous on slender branches.



***Nolina microcarpa*—Sacahuista, Beargrass:** Not a true grass but a succulent member of the lily family. It has been utilized to construct baskets. Sacahuista is a combination of two Aztec words: zacatl (grass) and huitztli (thorn).



***Nyctaginia capitata*—Scarlet Muskflower, Devil's bouquet:** This plant is a member of the Four-O'clock family. Flowers open in cool of evening and close in the hot sun of the next day.



***Opuntia imbricata*—Cholla, Desert Walking Stick:** Large, showy, reddish-purple flowers open wide. Fruits ripen from green to rose to yellow. First bush-like cholla when traveling from the East to the Southwest.



***Prosopis glandulosa*—Honey Mesquite:** A shrub or small tree to 30 ft. Twigs are armed with sharp thorns up to 2 inches. Cattlemen regard as range weeds and eradicate them. Indians prepared meal and cakes from the pods.



***Ptelea trifoliata*—Wafer Ash:** Aromatic shrub or small tree with a rounded crown. The bitter bark of the root, like other aromatic barks, has been used for home remedies.



***Quercus vaseyana*—Vasey Oak:** Incredibly drought tolerant, but stress can cause it to grow only into a small tree. Deer, squirrels, wild turkeys and other wildlife feed on the acorns.



***Rhus trilobata*—Three Leaf Sumac:** Drought tolerant. Useful in erosion control. Only female plants produce flowers and berries. Food for birds and mammals.



***Rhus virens*—Evergreen Sumac:** Fruit matures in mid-September and is covered with fine hair. Grown to make a nice, thick hedge or screen, fast growing, generally insect and disease-free, and drought tolerant.



***Ribes aureum*—Buffalo Currant:** Adaptable plant, tolerating standing water to drought. Provides nectar to hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. Birds, bears and rodents eat the fruit.



***Salvia ballotiflora*—Mejorana, Blue Shrub Sage:** Much-branched aromatic shrub with square stems. Leaves are opposite with serrated margins, hairy above and below. Flowers bluish-purple in elongated clusters.



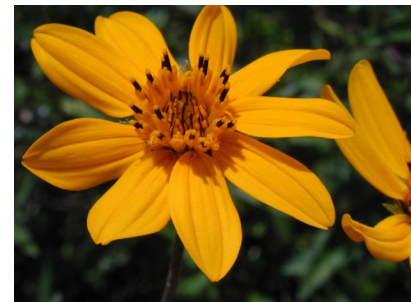
***Salvia farinacea*—Mealy Blue Sage:** Named for the mealy-white appearance of the sepals, which are covered with felted hairs. The leaves may or may not have teeth.



Salvia greggii—Autumn Sage: A popular landscape plant in the Southwest, used as a small, ornamental, flowering shrub or as a low hedge. Disease and insect free, drought tolerant. Once established, should not be fertilized



Sphaeralcea angustifolia—Copper Mallow: Normally 2–3 feet tall, sometimes up to 6 feet. Flowers bloom between June and November and may bloom more than once during that time if rains are favorable.



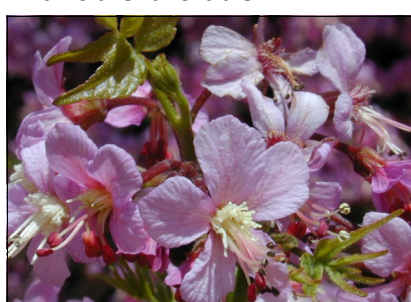
Wedelia texana—Zexmenia: A small shrub, from 8 in. to 3 ft. tall. Woody branches send down roots and gradually increase the plants' circumference. It is long-lived and non-aggressive.



Ziziphus obtusifolia—Lotebush: Frequent in unshaded places with very shallow soil over limestone. Bark with lengthwise cracks resulting from radial growth. Inconspicuous flower clusters.



Senna lindheimeriana—Velvet Leaf Senna: A bushy perennial, 3-6 ft. high. Effective in a wildflower garden as a specimen or background plant. An important source of food for birds.



Ungnadia speciosa—Mexican Buckeye: An 8-12 ft., deciduous tree, can reach 30 ft. in height. Sweetish but poisonous seeds are sometimes used by children as marbles.



Yucca baccata—Banana Yucca: Grows in clumps with short, reclining stems. The flowering stem is up to 40 in. tall, bears large, pendant, fleshy, white flowers with a red-purple tinge.



Sophora secundiflora—Texas Mountain Laurel, Mescal Bean: Brilliant, lacquer red seeds were valued by indigenous people for ornament and ceremonial use. Highly poisonous alkaloid cytosine, widely cited as a narcotic and hallucinogen.



Viguiera stenoloba—Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye: Grows 2-4 ft. Prolific, daisy-like, yellow-orange flowers bloom atop leafless stalks. Extremely drought-tolerant plant. Makes an excellent tall ground cover or small flowering shrub.



Yucca thompsoniana—Thompson's Yucca: Grows 6–12 feet high, treelike, with a trunk 5–8 inches in diameter, usually unbranched. Stays neat and will adapt to any soil and reflected heat.

The Ozona Chamber of Commerce would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for granting permission to use much of the photography and information found in this brochure.