

By: Darby

H.C.R. No. 24

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas traditionally has recognized a
2 variety of official symbols as tangible representations of the
3 proud character and colorful heritage of the Lone Star State;
4 select plant varieties, including the bluebonnet and the prickly
5 pear cactus, have received official recognition, which has served
6 to draw attention to the great biological diversity of our
7 landscape; and

8 WHEREAS, Texas supports not only an abundance of land-based
9 plants but also many aquatic species, and one particular type of
10 waterlily comes to the forefront as an especially worthy symbol of
11 the state: *Nymphaea* Texas Dawn; and

12 WHEREAS, A hardy and exceptionally lovely plant, *Nymphaea*
13 Texas Dawn is a hybrid that was created in 1985 by Texas resident
14 Kenneth Landon, a world-renowned expert in the field of *Nymphaea*
15 and the director of the International Waterlily Collection in San
16 Angelo; described as one of the most stunning yellow waterlilies to
17 be introduced in more than a century, *N. Texas Dawn* frequently
18 blooms 10 inches above the surface of the water in clusters of six
19 or more; in early spring, the base of the petals produces a light
20 orange glow, and in late summer and fall, the flowers may suffuse
21 with pink; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1990, *N. Texas Dawn* received the American Award
23 from the International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society (IWGS);
24 more recently, it was accorded top ranking among aquatic plants in

1 the rigorous Texas Superstar program of the Texas Cooperative
2 Extension of Texas A&M University, and the species is listed by
3 other hybridizers as a parent for more than a dozen named
4 waterlilies; and

5 WHEREAS, *N. Texas Dawn* has been featured prominently at the
6 International Waterlily Collection in San Angelo, which was
7 established by Mr. Landon in 1988 in a little-used pond in Civic
8 League Park; in the years since, the collection has become
9 recognized as one of the most important exhibits of its kind in the
10 world, and it was the focal point of the 2010 symposium of the IWGS;
11 the presence of this widely admired facility has given Texas great
12 prominence among water gardening enthusiasts, and it makes the
13 designation of *N. Texas Dawn* as the state waterlily all the more
14 appropriate; and

15 WHEREAS, This noteworthy species is the first waterlily to be
16 named for Texas, and its unique beauty and resilient character
17 indeed make it a fitting symbol for the Lone Star State; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby designate *Nymphaea Texas Dawn* as the official State
21 Waterlily of Texas.