

The landscape of Central Texas is very complex and varied. There are four vegetational zones that converge in and around the Austin area. Because of this, a single, specific landscape would lack the richness of the geology and plant life of the area. So the intent of this painting is to summarize aspects of a Central Texas landscape, rather than depict a specific area. Necessarily, geological and plant relationships and seasonal growth patterns are mixed. Primary geological elements in the painting are, the Hill Country, Enchanted Rock, Grasslands, and Round Rock on the Chisholm Trail.

In many ways, the Texas landscape has been and continues to be a vital medicinal garden. The indigenous people of the area used many plants in Texas for medicine, as did the later European settlers. Many of the plants are still used as herbal supplements and as ingredients in contemporary pharmacology. This painting contains a sampling of the area's medicinal plants. A few plants are shown, because of their abundance to Central Texas landscapes, such as Bluebonnet and Live Oak. A majority of the plants listed have toxic elements: some highly toxic. Research and expert consultation is needed before using any plant as a health supplement.

Medicinal plants in the painting:

- Black-eyed Susan has been used to treat colds, worms, snakebite and earaches. It has also been used as a diuretic and stimulant.
- Cattail has been used to treat burns, wounds, sores, chafing and dysentery.
- Echinacea is well known to us today as a cold remedy and means of enhancing our immune system, but it has been used for hundreds of years for sores, toothaches, colds and a variety of other ailments.
- Foxglove is known to have been used medicinally for sprains and bruises as far back as ancient Greece. It has been used in North America for coughs, stomach pain and skin problems. It is a primary ingredient in prescribed heart medication.
- Indian Paintbrush has been used for stomach problems and rheumatism.
- Maidenhair Fern has been used throughout history for such things as scalp and hair problems, coughs, menstruation cramps, bee stings and snake bites.
- Maximilian Sunflower was used in North America for snake bite, cuts and to reduce fever. Settlers were also know to plant sunflowers for protection against malaria and mosquitoes.
- Pokeweed has been used for rheumatism, arthritis, sores and anxiety.
- Prickly Ash has been used medicinally throughout the world for centuries. The indigenous people of Texas, as well as early settlers used Prickly Ash for sore throats, fevers, and as an anesthetic for toothaches.
- Texas Persimmon fruit has been used as an astringent for mouth sores. The bark was chewed to relieve digestive problems.
- Water Lily has been used as an astringent; and to treat mouth, stomach and liver problems.
- Witch Hazel has long been used to relieve itching, tired legs and eyes, bruises, boils and abrasions. It is still used today for a variety of hygienic and therapeutic uses, as well as various household chores.
- Yucca, besides traditionally being made into soap, has been used to treat skin problems, and as an anti-inflammatory for joint pain.