

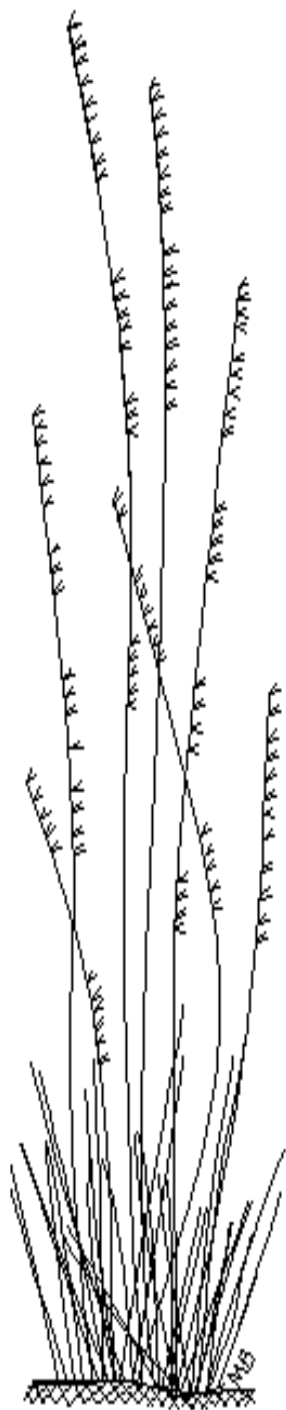
The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
Garland Chapter

www.npsot.org/garland

Volume XI Issue IV

April 2009



Sideoats Grama

(*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

Enjoys full sun;
grows two to three feet tall
with attractive seed heads on
one side of the stem;
attracts birds and butterflies;
Is the state grass of Texas

Side Oats Notes

May I extend a warm welcome to all our NPSOT friends and members this month.

We have another great presentation, *Soil as a predictor of Hexalectris orchid incidence, and implications for rarity and conservation* by Dr Marcy Brown Marsden.

I am sure her topic will be educational.

We also have our Native Plant Sale coming up on May 2. We can discuss in more detail at our meeting. This is our annual fundraiser.

Be sure and visit Rhode's Nursery before and after the meeting. They not only carry our cherished natives but also sell many organic products for plant health and weed control.

I look forward to seeing everyone this Sunday!

May you have a great week fueled by spring and filled with purpose.

Derrell Dixon

President NPSOT Garland

Welcome to our new members. And, a special and sincere thank you to our loyal current and renewing members. You are the spirit of the Garland Chapter.

NATIVE and HEIRLOOM PLANT SALE SATURDAY MAY 2nd

10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

PRESENTED BY

THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS
GARLAND CHAPTER

In the parking lot of

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
1333 Beltline, Garland

mapsco 19G

enter from Woodland Park Dr. one block east of Garland Rd

www.npsot.org/Garland 972-463-1077

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Marcy Brown Marsden is an associate professor and chairman of the Biology Department at the University of Dallas. She teaches a wide range of courses. From ecology and animal behavior to biostatistics, Darwin, and evolutionary biology. She currently conducts research on habitat restoration for the endangered Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*), performing data collection and habitat manipulation in several key areas to enhance habitat for vireo settlement.

In addition, she is also conducting work on characterizing the ecology and biogeography of the non-photosynthetic orchid genus *Hexalectris*. As part of her extensive work with the community, Dr. Brown Marsden was selected for The Climate Project, a program led by former Vice President Al Gore, with the goal of making presentations in and around Dallas-Fort Worth, discussing how individuals and businesses, schools, and other organizations can be a major part of the solution to the growing crisis of global warming.

Please join us for our April meeting
of the NPSOT, Garland Chapter,
Featuring:

Dr Marcy Brown Marsden

Soil as a predictor of *Hexalectris* orchid
incidence, and implications for rarity and
conservation

April 19, 2009

Meeting & Question & Answer Time at 2 pm
Program begins at 2:30 pm

Rohde's Nature Store and Nursery
1651 Wall Street
Garland
972-864-4445



Community Events



Create a Butterfly Garden with Texas Discovery Gardens



See how to create a butterfly habitat garden with our annual Butterfly Gardening Workshop. Led by Dale Clark, president of Dallas County Lepidopterists' Society, the workshop covers which plant species make the best host and nectar sources in Dallas. Learn about design ideas for a cohesive butterfly garden. We will cover location and preparation of the bed, requirements for healthy butterflies, basic native butterfly identification, and nectar and host plant selection. Participants also will tour the certified butterfly habitat at Texas Discovery Gardens to see the plants, butterflies and caterpillars in a demonstration garden. These classes sell out fast. Advance registration is required.



Classes are 9 a.m. to noon April 25, April 30, or May 2.



Teacher Workshop component on Saturday, May 2 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (additional fee)



Time: 9 a.m. – noon



Where: Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas, TX 75210



Cost: \$50 per person for Texas Discovery Gardens members; \$60 per person for non-members. The fee includes the flat of starter plants. Limited class size. Paid advance registration is required. For more information or to register, call (214) 428-7476.



Proceeds from the workshop help fund environmental education programs for schoolchildren offered by Texas Discovery Gardens. Each year, thousands of urban schoolchildren experience the wonders of nature for the first time at educational programs provided by Texas Discovery Gardens.



May Preview



Our Annual Butterfly Plant Sale is back!



When: May 15 and 16, 2009
Member's Preview Night: Fri., May 15, 4 pm to 7 pm
Open to Everyone: Sat., May 16, 10 am to 2 pm.



Become a member to save 10 % and shop a day early!



Community Events

Rainwater harvesting

Rainwater harvesting is an innovative method to capture, divert and store rainwater for later use in the landscape. Harvesting rainwater for landscape irrigation can reduce water bills and reduce demand on the municipal water supply. (For more information about rainwater harvesting, visit <http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu>)

The City of Garland and the City of Mesquite will offer a rainwater harvesting class, taught by Dr. Woodson. The first hour of class will provide information regarding outdoor water conservation, including the use of native and drought-tolerant plants. During the second hour, attendees will move outdoors to create their own rain barrel to take home. The cost for the class is \$10 per person, limit one barrel per person. Beginning February 1st, registration forms may be downloaded at www.garlandwater.com. Online registration will be available at <http://play.garlandparks.com>. Click on "PLAY registration".

Schedule and location of the last rainwater harvesting class:

April 25 9:00 a.m.
City Lake Park, 403 S. Galloway, Mesquite

TEXAS DISCOVERY GARDENS

April Gardening Tip: Go Native

Native plants are drought-resistant, often low-maintenance, and gorgeous additions to any yard or patio. In fact, they're a truly green landscaping tool! Many cultivars of native plants are available at local nurseries, retailers, and, of course, our annual Butterfly Plant Sale.

How will going native benefit you? Plants that are indigenous to an area are naturally more drought tolerant, and they need little or no fertilizer or pesticides. Plants also reduce air pollution. If you replace lawns with native plantings, you reduce the need to use a mower, which would pollute the air around you.

Will your native garden attract wildlife? That's the best part about buying native plants. They make a safe haven for wildlife among flat plots of lawns and concrete. You'll attract butterflies, too.



The Chapter's Plant sale is coming!
May 2nd...Get ready!

Minutes of the March 2009 Meeting

On March 15, 2009 the Garland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas met in the little red barn at Rohde's Nursery and Nature Store. President Derrell Dixon brought the meeting to order and asked for any new business. May Foreman said that Antonia Messina-Gates has confirmed we will be able to have our annual plant sale on May 2 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, located at 1333 Beltline Rd, Garland. For those of you unable to attend, May offered to take plants brought to our April meeting to the plant sale.

At this point, Christy Ilfrey of Natedave.com took over the presentation for the day with: Creating a Sustainable Landscape: North Central Texas. She and her husband, Dave, own an on-line sustainable design and consultation service, which focuses on the use of plants native to the area they are designing for. Their mission is to make positive changes while protecting the natural resources which leads to their design of landscapes that mimic the natural placement and grouping of plants found in the wild. She was accompanied by Keith Pulliam, owner of Appealing Gardens Landscapes in Allen.

Christy simply defined sustainability as the ability of a garden to maintain itself once it's been established. She provided us with a checklist to help fulfill that mission:

1. Create a master landscape plan to be implemented in its entirety or in phases.
2. Hire a certified professional irrigator to conduct an audit to find deficiencies; go to www.irrigation.org to find one in your area.
3. Remove lawn entirely, or at least 1/3 of your entire property.
4. Plant species native to your ecoregion.

Maintain your property organically.

Suggestions from this list include: incorporate a rain harvesting system, remove exotic and invasive species and replace with natives, increase planting beds to allow for mature plant sizes, opt for perennials vs. annuals, only use annuals in planters or as self-sowers in beds, weed and do minor pruning as needed (such as *Salvia greggii*), plant large shade trees on the west side of a house, use native plants from your ecoregion, maintain mulch at 2-3 inches year-round, and compost lawn debris and kitchen scraps. Christy mentioned that they use only compost and mulch, no fertilizer, and that even most natives will do better with compost added.

Using pictures, Christy pointed out how to plant for winter interest with plants that either have berries or interesting architectural features. She suggested Coralberry, Elbow Bush, Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum, Elderberry, and Mexican plum. For a groundcover, she showed us an interesting use of Virginia Creeper with *Physostegia* and *Liatris radiata*. In other slides she showed Oxeye Daisy, Dwarf Palmetto, Gulf Muhly Grass, Little Bluestem, Blackfoot Daisy, *Rudbeckia maxima*, and Henry Duelberg Sage. Two sedges she recommends are Cedar Sedge and Texas Sedge. A nice grouping for shade used Pale-Leaf Yucca, Wood Fern, Cedar Sage, Golden Groundsel, and Coralberry.

Following the presentation everyone was invited to select from native plants brought by Mary Cariker and freshly sprouted garden vegetables supplied by May Foreman.

Susan Anderson

Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste.
William Shakespeare

Join the Native Plant Society of Texas

Membership is renewable annually and extends for a year from the date we receive your original payment. If you wish to join or renew your membership, mail this form and the appropriate remittance, to:

Native Plant Society of Texas
P.O. Box 3017
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
830/997-9272

http://www.npsot.org/application/join_npsot.html

- () Student...\$15.00 () Senior citizen (65+)...\$20.00
() Senior Couple (one member 65+) ...\$30.00
() Individual \$25.00 () Family.....\$40.00
() Group..... \$50. 00 () Patron.....\$100.00
() Benefactor.....\$250.00 () Supporting.....\$500.00
() Corporate.....\$1000.00 () Lifetime..... \$1000.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____

Chapter Affiliation GARLAND _____

New () Renewal () Address Change ()

E-mail Address _____

The Native Plant Society of Texas is a 501c3 not for-profit organization. All monetary gifts and contributions to the Garland Chapter of NPSOT are tax deductible. Remember our chapter in your tax planning contributions for 2008. Thank you!



Rohde's

Nursery & Nature Store

Thanks to our host Greg and the staff at Rohde's. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Rohde's

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(972) 864-4445

http://www.beorganic.com/



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