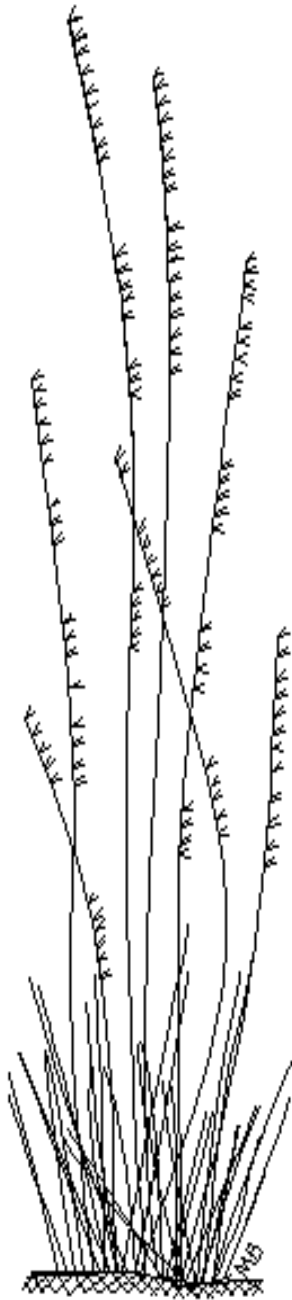


The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
Garland Chapter
www.npsot.org/garland

Volume XIII Issue IV

April 2011



Hello Native Plant Gardeners!

Yippee! Spring is awakening with the rush of native greenery. The mesquites are telling us that a late freeze is no longer a worry with their new green foliage and the rain we received this month has given many plants a nudge along in their growth. This is when you should be seeing the native bunch grasses replacing the winter chaff with fresh green blades and more trees have leafed out. Some are starting to show flower buds coming on, while others have catkins waving among the new leaves.

This is a good time to hear how you can identify native trees of the Blackland Prairie, so that as the season advances you will have a better idea of which trees you are seeing if you are in any area that is still on the wild side. Our speaker this month will be Chris Ebling from the Blackland Prairie Master Naturalists and if you have any identification questions regarding this topic then this is your chance to have those questions answered.

I am already looking at a red oak I bought at last fall's symposium and wondering *which* red oak do I have? As it grows I am going to look at the terminal tips of the branches (the growing ends of the branch) to see if I can determine whether it is a Shumard Oak or a Texas Red Oak. Now on Sunday I will find out if that tip is really a good way to determine this!

Reminder- we will be having our spring plant sale in conjunction with the Annual Garage Sale that the First Christian Church at 115 S. Glenbrook in Garland will be having April 30 from 7 to 3 in the afternoon. Please donate tables and shade for our use that day!

I hope to see you Sunday!

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

Minutes

NPSOT of Garland

Meeting notes Sunday 20 March 2011

2:15 pm Susan opened the meeting.

May reported financial status. \$3363.51 + \$27 (NPSOT Rebates) = \$3391.51 balance

Susan Anderson, Chapter President, announced upcoming events. Be sure to mark your calendars!

- White Rock Lake Family Fun Nature Weekend – Sat & Sun March 26 & 27 Admission is free
As part of the Comerica White Rock Lake Centennial Celebration bring your family out to explore White Rock Lake and learn more about the birds, fish and animals that call White Rock Lake home. Garland chapter will have a table set up at the Bath House Cultural Center, 521 East Lawther

We will be manning the table from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday and 1-4 on Sunday

Volunteers welcome

There will be tours and events throughout the day held at different locations. Some tours will begin at the Bath House, so perhaps volunteers could come man the table for an hour or two and attend events afterward.

For more information visit www.whiterockdallas.org or contact Sally Rodriguez at sally.rodriguez@dallascityhall.com or 214-243-2123

- Keep Garland Beautiful -Trash Pickup Event on Saturday April 2nd at 8:30 am to 11:00 am
Volunteers are encouraged to join us at the field located at the intersection of Buckingham and Pleasant Valley. Gloves, trash bags and trash pickers will be furnished. Suggest you bring your own gloves.

- Next Garland Chapter meeting is Sunday April 17th. Topic is Native Texas Trees

- Plant Sale scheduled for Saturday April 30th at 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. We will have an area at the First Christian Church Annual Garage Sale, located at Glenbrook and Avenue D.

Bring extra tables and lots of plants to sell.

If you can't attend, May Foreman has volunteered to deliver your plants for you. Contact May 972-495-3424 to make arrangements.

Special Guest: Bobette Brasfield

“Smarter Water for North Texas – A Conversation”

Sponsored by Texas Conservation Alliance

Program support provided by the Family and Friends of Rachel Virden Hulscher

Minutes Continued

The population of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area is expected to double over the next fifty years. One of the biggest natural resource decisions facing Texans is how to best supply the demand for water for this growing population.

Vested interests propose building new reservoir projects, most notably a 72,000-acre lake called Marvin Nichols Reservoir, proposed on the Sulphur River in Northeast Texas.

Fact: There is enough water in existing reservoirs to meet projected future water demands for the DFW region, including the growth in population.

Three existing reservoirs, Wright Patman Reservoir on the Sulphur River, Lake Texoma on the Red River, and Toledo Bend on the Sabine River, together can provide more water than the projected demand for water in 2060.

A combination of reasonable conservation and tapping the water sitting idle in underused reservoirs would give the DFW area a bright water future.

Why NOT to build a reservoir? Did you ever look at a lake and think about what was there before the lake was built? Building a new reservoir floods ranch land, forests, wildlife habitat, and people's homes. Cemeteries, churches, historic and archeological sites all go under water. People have land taken that may have been in their family for generations. They lose their livelihood as well as their land, and have their lives uprooted.

An economist with the Texas Forest Service estimates the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir would cost the timber industry more than \$200 million per year in lost revenues and up to 1300 jobs.

Using the water in existing lakes is a better way to supply the DFW region's water future!

For more information contact Texas Conservation Alliance at www.TCAtexas.org.
Contact Bobette Brasfield, phone 214-351-5202, email bobetteb@airmail.net
Or Milton Hickman, phone 903-292-1289, email Milton.robby@gmail.com

Additional comments from the Speaker:

- The bottomland supplies habitat for the most quantity of species, wildlife and plants.
- The Marvin Nichols Reservoir would displace forests, farmland, cattle farms, peach orchards and many jobs. Some people will lose farms that have been in their family for 6 generations. Estimated cost to build this reservoir is \$4 billion, most would be at tax payers expense.
- Water is readily accessible in the DFW area. The #1 use of water is lawns.
- One quarter of the Texas population is located in the DFW region.
- Water proposals are based on the severest drought in Texas history, which occurred in 1956.
- The water proposal board is made up of 13 members, 11 of which are involved in the industry and lobby to build more dams to possibly profit from the construction.

Susan thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting. Native plants were then awarded as door prizes.

***Please join us for our meetings of the NPSOT, Garland Chapter,
this year being held in
March, April, May, September, October and November***

Our April speaker will be

**Chris Ebling
of the Blackland Prairie Master Naturalists**

Speaking on the topic

**“Native Trees of North-Central Texas and
How to Identify Them”**

April Meeting

Meeting/Question & Answer Time at 2 pm

Program begins at 2:15 pm

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

Please bring a friend!

Spring Creek Forrest Preserve: Demonstration Bed Bloomers on April 9. The Autumn Sage was showing very little color, so I thought I would focus on some of the other plants in our bed.



Mealy Sage, *Salvia farinacea*



Unknown Yucca, perhaps *Yucca arkansasa*



Cutleaf Daisy, *Engelmannia peristenia*



Unknown thistle that seeded out in the bed

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

At Texas Discovery Gardens

Saturday, June 18. Butterfly Seasons: Summer

Summertime in Dallas brings not only long, hot days, but also so many new butterflies onto the scene. Swallowtail populations increase, returning emigrant species from the south begin to repopulate the area, and everywhere you turn there are caterpillars chowing down seemingly on everything in sight. Surviving -- and thriving -- in the Texas heat is no problem for our native species.

Saturday, Sept. 17. Butterfly Seasons: Autumn

While Fall typically signifies the winding down of the year, it is actually one of the most active and exciting times to observe butterflies in Dallas. From rare and unusual strays that wander up from the south, to the regular emigrant species that show up every year, and of course, the annual migration south of the Monarch butterfly. The cast of players is large and varied filled with stories of success ... and failures.

Saturday, Dec. 10. Butterfly Seasons: Winter

We focused on the butterflies of Winter -- yes, we have butterflies in winter here! Discover the various ways our native species have adapted methods to cope with our often harsh winters and survive.

*Please join us for our meetings of the NPSOT, Garland Chapter,
this year being held in*

March, April, May, September, October and November

Our May speaker will be

Jim Varnum

Speaking on the topic

“Wildflowers of the Blackland Prairie”

May Meeting

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student.....\$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior citizen (65+)...\$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple (one member 65+) | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family.....\$40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group..... \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron.....\$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor.....\$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting.....\$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate.....\$1000.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime..... \$1000.00 |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____

Chapter Affiliation GARLAND

New Renewal Address Change

E-mail Address _____

For IRS income tax purposes, the full amount of your NPSOT membership dues is tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote the conservation, research and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas, through education, outreach and example.



Rohde's

*Nursery
& Nature Store*

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

Rohde's
1651 Wall Street
Garland, TX 75041

972-864-1934 , 800-864-4445,
fax 972-864-0128

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Chapter Leadership Team

Susan Anderson, President /Programs
sander23@verizon.net

Open, President Elect
open

Ray Prevott, Newsletter Editor
raprevott@aol.com

Barbara Merry, Webmaster
blmerry@yahoo.com

May Foreman, Treasurer
mforeman@mail.smu.edu

Kathryn Piazza, Secretary
alphahe77@gmail.com

Shauna Feely, Historian
shauna575@aol.com

Kim Uhlmann, Publicity
tonyuhlmann@verizon.net