

April 2006 Side Oats Notes

Ok, who did the rain dance? I was amazed we had ten people at our March meeting, six members and four guests. Tom Frey, our speaker, was unable to get to Rohdes because of the flooding; as were some members. I hope he is available to speak to us at our October meeting. I apologize to Greg Rohde and his staff. The only reason they came in to work was because of us. We're grateful and we owe you.

Many thanks to Mary Cariker, Fay Danahy and Shauna Feely, we spent a few hours weeding and pruning the chapter's garden at Spring Creek Park Preserve on April 8th. I enjoyed getting to know these ladies a little better. The desert willows, *salvia greggii*, and wine cups looked great. We also harvested some wine cups which had reseeded for our plant sale, and a few also for ourselves. There is more maintenance to be done there; this was the first weeding in over a year. I still need to make a sign for the garden, which was destroyed by vandals. The vandalism there is an ongoing problem. Some of our bluebird boxes have been damaged again. To fix them we will need new poles. Brigitte mentioned at our last meeting the Spring Creek Society is trying for a grant to install bluebird houses. Maybe we can help them financially.

After our work session Fay led Shauna and me on an enjoyable walk through the Preserve. Fay pointed out fringed puccoon, what a pretty yellow blossom. We saw inland sea oats, prairie verbena and many other native plants. Fay is an excellent and enjoyable guide, our thanks to you. After the preserve, I visited Fay's home to tour her garden. I got to see her beautifully shaped Eve's Necklace tree, *Sophora affinis*, along with her huge wine cups and other natives. I always learn and enjoy seeing plants in their natural settings. It's fascinating to me how differently they can look from the book and from one garden to the next.

I would like to set up a group, maybe three to five members, who will take care of the Club's garden as their ongoing project. I will volunteer as one of the caretakers; now just need a few more. Please contact me if you're interested. The garden is small, not a lot of work involved.

At this month's meeting Jim Eidson will give us a presentation on Clymer Meadow. Clymer Meadow is only open by appointment. The following Saturday, April 29th, 9:00am Jim is leading a Clymer tour for us and the Master Naturalists. If you have attended Jim's May Clymer walk, or Jim Varnum's October walk I urge you to come in April, the blooming plants are different and it's a wonderful escape from the city. We will have directions to Clymer at the meeting.

As always, I look forward to seeing you next Sunday. Please bring your plant specimens to be identified and your plant questions to be answered, hopefully we can do both. Wear your walking shoes for what, weather permitting, will be our first field trip. Jim Varnum will meet us at Rohdes. He will lead a walk for us through Rowlett Nature Trail Park fifteen minutes away from Rohdes following our meeting.

Bring a friend!

Antonia Messina-Gates
Chapter President

Our secretary/newsletter editor was hospitalized for 2 days this week. I'm sure you join me in wishing Carol a speedy return to good health. Therefore she wasn't able to get a newsletter done. So here are some important items that would have been in it. I'm sure I've forgotten something.... Antonia Messina-Gates, President, Garland Chapter, Native Plant Society

PLANT SALE

1. Bring your plants to the meeting this Sunday, the Simon's will take them home and care for them or to the Simon's before 9:00 on May 6th. This is important as we usually have customers come **very** early. We are going to sort the plants by sun or shade and that will take extra time.
2. Very important- **LABEL EACH POT**. You can use masking tape on the pot, a plastic spoon, etc.
3. Our plants sell better if there is a picture of the plant in bloom. Please bring one picture on a stick to put with your plants if you can, scan it into your computer and print it out or have a copy of your photo made please. Last year I scanned photos from plant books and that worked well.
4. We need members to help work the sale. The morning hours are the busiest, the first hour frantic. If you can spare only one hour please make that between 10 and 12. Last years sale was the best because we had lots of members all day. It was a pleasant way to get to know other members. Bring a lawn chair, water, a hat, bug repellent.
5. We need small boxes, plastic flats or plastic bags for the plants
6. Please spread the word to your friends.
7. This is our only fundraiser all year. This sale enables us to run our chapter. Without it we wouldn't have enough money to continue.

DUES INCREASE.

The state is increasing dues effective May 1st. You may renew at our meeting. I sent an e-mail earlier this week with your expiration date. The same info will be at the meeting.

FOLLOW UP WALK to this month's meeting presentation by Jim Eidson at Clymer Meadow Saturday, April 29th 9:00

MONTHLY MEETING April 23, 2006, 2:00 PM

JIM EIDSON WILL GIVE A PRESENTATION ON CLYMER MEADOW, Clymer is located in northwest Hunt County

and is one of the last remaining prairie remnants. Jim Eidson has been with The Nature Conservancy for over 11 years and is currently Ecoregional Manager for the Crosstimbers and Southern Tallgrass Prairie Ecoregion.

After the meeting we will follow *JIM VARNUM* to *ROWLETT NATURE TRAIL PARK*.

Jim WILL LEAD A FIELD TRIP FOR US and we will explore this area and see what we can identify. Jim is a Texas Master Naturalist and on the board of the Native Prairies Association of Texas and the Texas Land Trust Council.

I hope to see you at our meeting this Sunday. Feel free to bring a friend with you. If you have a plant you would like to have identified, bring a piece with you and we will do our best to help you. Bring you questions also and wear your walking shoes. The Nature Trail is about 15 minutes from Rohde's and will not be difficult.

The meeting is at ROHDES NURSERY IN THE RED SCHOOL HOUSE
1651 Wall St, Garland, Texas 75041. Mapsco 29T

Thank you Greg Rohde for the use of your building!

Area Events

Native Plant Sale NPSOT Garland Chapter, May 6, 2006

"Last Chance Plant Sale"

Saturday, May 6th
10 AM - 3 PM
312 Carissa Court, Mesquite, 75150
(near the intersection Belt Line and Northwest Drive)

Earth Day is April 22, 2006

Keep Garland Beautiful will host its annual Trash Off. This year's theme, "**Walk Your Trash Off,**" combines getting in shape with cleaning up Garland. Everyone is invited to participate at one of two locations on **April 22 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am.** "Walk Your Trash Off" will be held at the Spring Creek Forest Preserve (1770 Holford Road) or Audubon Park (440 Oates Road). The event will culminate with an awards ceremony and free lunch at Ablon Park at noon.

Anyone or any group who wants to participate with the Trash Off can call Cindy at (972) 205-3750 or e-mail her at cvochatz@ci.garland.tx.us.

Dallas Audubon Society *DestiNature at Cedar Ridge Preserve - April 22, 2006 (Rain or Shine)*
8am - 4pm

Raise money for conservation and education by participating in Birdathon/Hikeathon while celebrating a day of nature at Cedar Ridge Preserve. Other activities include a native plant sale, live animal presentations and a children's area. For more information and how to register go to www.audubondallas.org/fundraising.html

Wildflower Walk at Spring Creek Park Preserve located at 1787 Holford Rd in Garland. MN Jim Varnum, long-time native plant wildflower searcher, "will point out blooming things, birds, butterflies and whatever he comes across". **April 27 from 6:00pm -7:30 pm**

Texas Discovery Gardens *Butterfly Gardening Workshop*

9am - noon Saturday, April 29 (repeated on Thursday, May 4 & Saturday, May 6)
Receive an entire flat of specially selected nectar and host plants grown in the greenhouses at **Texas Discovery Gardens**, and learn how to design a garden that will attract clouds of butterflies. This workshop is a wonderful Mother's Day gift. Call 214-428-7476 today to register yourself and your mom! *Texas Discovery Gardens members \$35; non-members \$45.*

National Wildflower Week.

Celebrate wildflowers at the Wildflower Center and all over America, **May 1-7, 2006.** [read more at www.wildflowers.org](http://www.wildflowers.org) and click on "Calendars and Events" to see how you might celebrate National Wildflower Week.

Dallas County Lepidopterists' Society Field Trip: May 13, 2006 10:00 a.m.

Location: Norbuck Park, Dallas, TX (Intersection of Mockingbird Road/Buckner Blvd/Northwest Highway)
Contact: [Dale Clark](mailto:Dale.Clark@tnc.org)

Nature Conservancy Clymer Meadow Wildflower Tour: May 20, 2006

Location: Clymer Meadow Preserve near Celeste, Texas.

Description: Clymer Meadow, one of the largest and most beautiful tallgrass prairies remaining in the Blacklands of Texas, is open for our annual spring wildflower tour.

Contact: Please contact our North Texas office at 903-568-4139 or jedison@tnc.org for more information and directions to the preserve.