

The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
Garland Chapter

www.npsot.org/garland

Volume IX Issue IV

April 2007

Side Oats Notes

Hello, fellow native gardeners! This month is a great month for our perennial gardens! Last month, only a few plants were in bloom. However, this month, every time I go outside, something new is blooming. How exhilarating!

This month we are involved in two activities that will help educate the public about native plants. I sent an email request for volunteers, and I still need them. I need at least two more people at Gloria Dei and at least one more person at the zoo. Please shoot me an email, or give me a call if you would like to volunteer.

First, Mark Yarborough will be speaking at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on using natives plants. He will be there on April 14th, from 12 until 3 p.m. It is located at 1333 Belt Line Rd in Garland. The church has asked up to set up a display, answer questions, and hand out brochures. I need 3 or 4 volunteers to do this. Antonia is making a display board and I will be getting some brochures. It sounds like a great opportunity to inform the public on the benefits of using natives.

Also, the Dallas Zoo is having a Party for the Planet on Saturday, the 21st of April. They would like several people to volunteer to do the same: answer questions, hand out brochures and sit for a couple of hours by our display board. You and your immediate family will receive free entrance to the zoo that day. We need two people for each shift. 11 to 1, 1 to 3, & 3 to 5. Butch and I will take the set up time, and bring everything. I will have to inform the gate who is coming, along with how many family members. The last shift will be the clean up crew. They will bring the display board and anything left to our picnic the next day.

Last month, Renee Richeson, a Master Naturalist, inspired us to propagate our native plants. It was an informative topic. She encouraged us to try different approaches to see what works. She also encouraged us to research the particular plant we want to propagate. She gave us ideas on how to take cuttings from fruit trees, which I found interesting. We also had so many plants to share that everyone got a plant to take home. That was great fun! Thank you to everyone who brought plants to share.

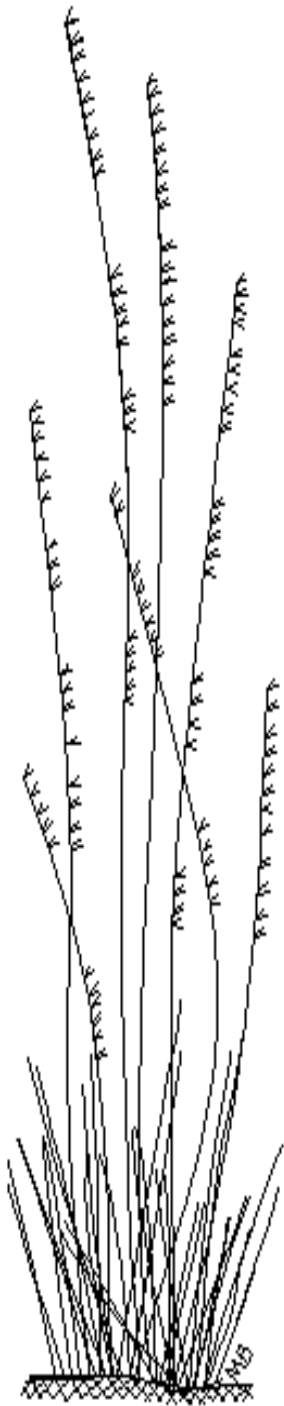
On the 15th of this month, we are having the Master Composters from Plano come to tell us the benefits of composting and composting basics. I look forward to hearing what they will have to say. Also, we will be having an Earth Day picnic at Antonia and Marv's in Fate on Sunday, the 22nd. It will be an enjoyable time to gather and relax. Bring your lawn chairs and covered dish. I will have a sign up list at the next meeting, but even if you don't sign up we welcome you and your family. We plan to gather around 2:30 p.m.

Marv has offered to make a sign for our demonstration garden. Thank you, Marv, for your contribution of time and skill as a woodturner to give to the Native Plant Society. It is really appreciated! We are eager to see the sign.

Continue to pot up your plants for the plant sale which is the first Saturday in May. Also, if you have extra plastic pots and flats at home, we can use them for the plant sale. If you cannot make the plant sale, but you have plants to donate, you may bring them to the April meeting or the picnic. Butch and I will take them home. You may also bring them by our house.

Our meetings are open to all, so bring your friends! Help us spread the word on the benefits of planting natives.

Happy Gardening & Grow Native!
Donna G. Simon
Chapter President.



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

Texas Betony (*Stachys coccinea*)

Description:

Texas Betony, is a flowering and evergreen perennial, 12 to 18 inches tall or more. It naturally grows in moist crevices of the mountains of West Texas, west to Arizona, and northern Mexico. It produces red or pink tubular flowers and has a long bloom season, from spring until fall. The grey-green leaves are opposite, fuzzy, toothed, triangular, and up to 3 inches long. Texas Betony is a favorite nectar plant for hummingbirds, honeybees and the Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies.

Deer Resistance:

Deer resistant due to the very pungent leaves.

Planting Sites:

Texas Betony prefers well-drained soil and partial shade. It is very drought tolerant after established. It is an excellent border plant for the shade. Propagate by division, cuttings or seeds. Do not plant too close to the edge of the flower bed or the flowers will spill over into the yard.

Planting Instructions:

Dig a hole at least two times wider than, but the same depth as the root ball in the nursery container. Remove plant from container, taking care to support the root ball. Gently loosen exterior roots gently with fingers. Plant at the same depth as the soil in the container. Backfill using soil that was dug from the hole. Add 3-4 inches of mulch. Space plants 12" apart.

Watering Instructions:

Moderate water use. Give extra water if placed in full sun. After planting, water deeply in order to settle soil around roots. Water deeply the first two weeks and then every 7-10 days, as needed, during the first growing season. Check moisture an inch or two into soil at the edge of the root ball to determine soil moisture. Skip a watering after a rainfall of ½ to 1 inch. Maintain this watering schedule until the first fall. Reduce watering during fall and winter. In a "normal" year, no watering may be necessary during fall and winter, but during a dry period, monthly watering may be needed. From the second spring and throughout the second summer, water monthly only in periods of drought. Watering should be unnecessary after the plant is thoroughly established.

NICE! Tip:

Texas Betony can be used in flower pots or as a ground cover. Foliage hardy to 32°F (0°C). Remove spent blooms or allow to mature and start new plants. Plant Texas Betony instead of Vinca minor or Liriope.

*Article courtesy of NPSOT Boerne Chapter NICE!



Image courtesy of Texas Native Shrubs website
a collection of original photographs taken by
Mr. Benny Simpson, Texas naturalist
and plantsman extraordinaire,
and long time researcher at
the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
in Dallas.



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

*Find the Treasure in Your Backyard
Volunteers from
Plano Master Composters*

April 15, 2007
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

Please bring a friend!



NPSOT Garland Chapter Activities

LAST CHANCE NATIVE AND HEIRLOOM PLANT SALE

Saturday May 5, 2007 10am until 2pm

312 Carissa, Mesquite, TX

Directions: From I30 and Broadway/Beltline, go South on Beltline; Turn right on Northwest Drive; Turn left on Millridge (first left); Turn right on Carissa Dr. We are the fourth house on the left.

We will be receiving plants from 9 am to 10 am. The sale starts at 10 am. If you are going to deliver plants; drive down Carissa and deliver your plants, then park on Millridge. This will help free up our cul de sac for people who are coming to shop.

We need volunteers to help with the sale and make our fundraiser successful.

Pot your native and heirloom plants this week so that they can develop root systems that will enable our customers to grow them successfully.

Label the plants with the botanical name and/or the common name using indelible marker on a plastic knife or spoon. If you have pictures of the plants in bloom, or showing their best color, please bring them. Also, email Barbara Merry, blmerry@yahoo.com, with the names-common and scientific name- of the plants you will donate to the plant sale. We will develop a list of plants with photos for the website.



Chapter Picnic Sunday April 22, 2007 2:30pm

Join us at Antonia and Marv's house at 2:30 for food and fellowship. Bring lawn chairs, so that you can sit outside. We will have a sign up list at the meeting for food. If you are not able to sign up at the meeting, you can bring a side dish or a dessert. Call 972- 635-2757 or email antonia@feccommunications.net for directions.

Community Events

Texas Discovery Gardens: 214-428-7476 or visit the website at www.texasdiscoverygardens.org

Butterfly Gardening Workshops Saturday, April 28; Thursday, May 3; or Saturday, May 5 9am - 12pm

Learn how to design and maintain a garden for butterflies. Taught by local butterfly expert, Dale Clark, this workshop also includes a flat of butterfly attracting plants. Pre-Registration required. Members \$35 Non-Members \$45

Call for Volunteers– The Texas Discovery Gardens has several events planned for which it needs volunteers, such as the Butterfly Gardening Class, the Native plant sale, Organic in the City series, and Earthfest . If you would like to volunteer for any of these events contact Melissa Martin 214-428-7476 ext. 25 or mmartin@texasdiscoverygardens.org.

To volunteer to help propagate native and adapted plants contact Beverly Hayes at 214-428-7476 ext.21 or bhayes@texasdiscoverygardens.org .

To volunteer to help with children's classes, tours, scout programs, etc. Please contact the Education Department, Joan Youngblood at 214-428-7476 ext. 27 or jyoungblood@texasdiscoverygardens.org

Spring Creek Forest Preserve: www.springcreekforest.org

Nature Walk: Wed, April 18, 2007, 6:00 p.m. – Spring Creek **PARK** Preserve, 1787 Holford, Garland. Jim Varnum will lead us on a nature walk through the Preserve. Jim is a regionally known naturalist who imparts information about the plants, birds, habitat, and more of the Preserve.

Cedar Ridge Preserve 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html

Spring Coralroot Orchid Search through April 28, 2007 Spring coralroot orchids (*Corallorrhiza wisteriana*) are cousins to the famous CRP Hexalectris orchids. They are seen on several trails, but for some unknown reason, none were seen in 2006. Master Naturalist and long-time CRP volunteer Jim Varnum hits the trails in April to find, GPS, and catalog them. Volunteers may accompany Jim or search on their own. **Dates:** Dates TBA between March 31 and April 28. **Contact:** Jim Varnum jevvarnum@aol.com , 972-243-4098

Heard Natural Science Museum McKinney, TX www.heardmuseum.org

Spring Native Plant Sale Friday, April 13 from 4pm - 7pm for Members Only (memberships will be available for purchase) Open to the Public Saturday, April 14 from 9 am - 5 pm and Sunday, April 15 from 1 pm - 5 pm. Go to the website for a list of plants.

Native Prairie Association of Texas www.texasprairie.org

Daphne Prairie Field Trip Saturday April 14 1pm Come join us near Mount Vernon to tour Daphne Prairie, a ~1,000 acre prairie on the eastern edge of the Blackland Prairie which includes two hay meadows featuring the largest mima mounds in Texas.



Field Trips to Tridens Prairie (10 am) and Clymer Meadow Preserve (1:30pm) Sunday April 15
Tridens Prairie is a 100 acre Silphium Dropseed prairie (a critically imperiled plant community) near Paris. Clymer Meadow is a 1,000 acre tallgrass prairie preserve near Celeste.

For more information directions for these field trips go to www.npsot.org/Garland/community_news.htm or contact jason_spangler@texasprairie.org or 512-736-4199 (cell phone).

Texas Master Naturalist-North Texas Chapter www.ntmn.org

Parkhill Prairie Tours April 21, 2007 Contact: Jim Varnum jevvarnum@aol.com , 972-243-4098

For links to these and other organizations go to www.npsot.org/Garland/links.htm

Minutes of the March 2007 Meeting

Minutes for the March meeting of the Garland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas held March 18, 2007 at the little red barn behind Rohde's Nursery and Nature Store. President Donna Simon called the meeting to at 2:00 p.m.

Donna reminded the members of the following events:

- The next meeting is April 15th.
- April 13 - 15 plant sale at the Heard Museum.
- The club picnic is scheduled for April 22, 2007, Earth Day. The picnic will be at the home of Antonia and Marvel Gates.
- May 5th is our plant sale. This is our annual fund raiser. It will be held at the home of Donna and Butch Simon.

The Native Plant Society Symposium will be held in Georgetown in October.

Glenda mentioned that Richland College is offering a Native Plant class in May; check their website for more information.

Donna thanked those members who worked at our demonstration garden last month. She reminded everyone that Jim Varnum will be leading an Early Spring Wildflower Walk at Breckinridge Park (Moroney Dr. off Renner Rd. in Richardson) next Saturday, March 24th, at 10:00 am. Donna said that Texas Discovery Garden is looking for volunteers (those interested should contact Melissa Martin at the garden). Flyers for the City of Dallas Water Utilities Water-Wise Garden Tour Contest are available (tour June 2nd, entry by April 6th).

Donna then introduced our speaker, Renee Richeson, Master Gardner. Renee spoke to us about propagating native plants. She noted that it is important to research the plant and its requirements. She discussed starting seeds, when and how to gather, store and germinate the seeds. She also discussed stem cuttings, root cuttings, rooting medium and root stimulation. She recommended the book How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest by Jill Nokes (University of Texas Press. Austin 2001). During the question and answer session that followed, several members made suggestions of their successful propagation methods.

The meeting closed with a drawing for door prize plants. There were many great plants supplied by our member. Donna again reminded us that we will need many plants for our annual plant sale in May. So start those transplants and cuttings very soon. Please mark the plants with a marker on a plastic knife, fork or spoon or other non-destructible piece of plastic. They can be in any size or type of pot or small plastic container. We will also need a large supply of "flats"; so recycle those supplies as you see them being discarded this spring.

Glenda Mc Cune, Secretary

**I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose
I would always greet it in a garden.**

- Ruth Stout

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**

- () 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 _____

* You may also submit your application to the Chapter Treasurer at any meeting.



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

<http://www.beorganic.com/index.htm>



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*Don't forget to spread the word about the
NPSOT Garland Chapter*

Last Chance

Native and Heirloom Plant Sale

on May 5. Click

www.npsot.org/Garland/annual_plant_sale.htm

for a

plant listing and photos.