

# THE GRAMA GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS  
GARLAND CHAPTER

Volume VIII, Issue 7

August 2006

## Side Oats Notes

Greetings,

I was thrilled to discover Tiger Swallowtail butterflies in my yard. This is the first year they have visited. They join the Giant Swallowtails in nectaring at my sunflowers. The large flowers are appreciated by these large butterflies and by me also. Later the birds will feast on the dried sunflower seeds. These sunflowers are considered a weed by many, but they are blooming beautifully without any extra water, just as they do along the roadside. If you think you don't have enough space in your garden, try just one, cut it when young to force it to branch and stay shorter. I can give you seeds if you would like to try one; let me know.

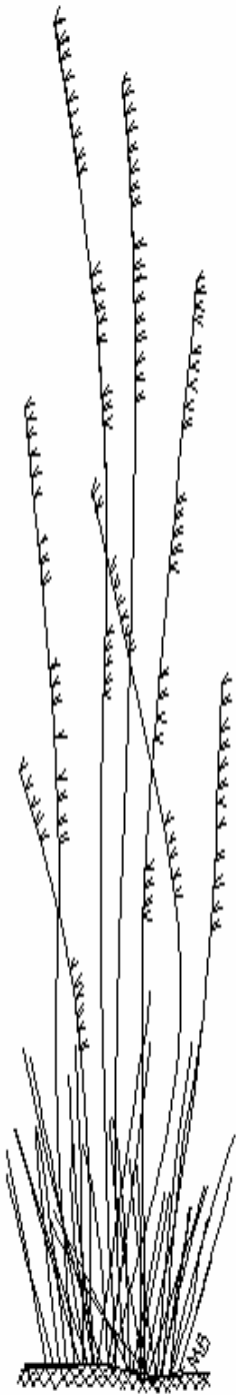
If you missed our indoor picnic last month, you missed lots of good company, good food, and a delightful afternoon. We also got to meet Jake Vinton who was an enchanting visitor. I got one plant named, but forgot to get a couple of grasses identified. Those in attendance decided to make the picnic an annual affair. We decided on April next year so we can actually be outside before it becomes sweltering. We will have a regular meeting in July. If you would like to get together more often, let me know. I would be happy to play host on a non-meeting day. I want to thank the Yarboroughs for allowing the members to tour their garden and for providing cold drinking water prior to the picnic. I didn't get to tour but heard admiring comments on what Mark and Carrie have created.

It seems like the day after the picnic my trees started to drop their leaves. As I write this and look out the window, the front yard has a thin layer of leaves already. I am starting to see through the front row of trees. This is way too early and not a good thing. This is our seventh summer in this house; the drought of 2000 was our first. This is the lowest our front pond, the larger one, has been in the time we've been here. I wonder if there will be any water left. The back pond is dried out, even though it was fed from the French drain. What will become of my frogs, snakes, dragonflies and the other critters dependant on that water to survive? It will be a long time before we recuperate from this drought.

I know Native Dave and Christy will have some good information to share with us at this month's meeting. Their topic is *Fall Planting*, and they will also share some water-wise gardening tips. I know it's hard to imagine autumn, but it will be here soon. Christy and Dave are always enjoyable, and I'm grateful they agreed to speak with us a second time this year. You might want to check out their website, [www.Nativedave.com](http://www.Nativedave.com).

This Saturday is our field trip to BRIT, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. We will get to see what Barney Lipscomb talked about at our October meeting last year. The tour lasts two hours. I hope you will be able to come and stay afterwards to lunch together in Fort Worth. You will find details elsewhere in this newsletter. We decided at the picnic to meet in the Sam's parking lot on Northwest Highway near Rohde's at 9:30 to carpool. Check your roster, perhaps there is someone near whom you could travel with. Marvel and I plan to spend the afternoon at a museum in Fort Worth. You are welcome to join us.

Happy Gardening,  
*Antonia*



Sideoats Grama  
(*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

Sun, attractive seed form on one side of stems, state grass of Texas, attracts birds and butterflies, two to three feet tall.

## Upcoming Events

### *Wildscapes: Gardening to Attract Wildlife*

Workshop presented by the Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT on Saturday, September 16, 2006. Five knowledgeable speakers will teach participants how to build a visually appealing garden featuring native and adapted plants that will attract and sustain wildlife. For more information and registration form, visit [www.NPSOT.org/Fredericksburg/Wildscapes](http://www.NPSOT.org/Fredericksburg/Wildscapes) or contact Peggy Benson at 830-997-9960 (email: [peggyben@austin.rr.com](mailto:peggyben@austin.rr.com))

### **Volunteer at Texas Discovery Gardens During The Texas State Fair**

Experience all the fun and excitement of the Great State Fair of Texas while volunteering in seven and a half amazing acres of native and adapted plants interspersed with cool, tranquil ponds, a spectacular fountain and interesting garden accents. Share your enthusiasm for gardening with thousands of folks who tour the colorful butterfly garden at The Texas Discovery Gardens during the State Fair of Texas.

*Volunteers are asked to make a commitment of at least 3 shifts during the State Fair.*

*You will receive free parking and admission to the State Fair for your shifts.*

**Garden Docents:** Volunteers will be stationed in the Rose Garden, the AAS/Butterfly Garden, Leftwich Pond and by the Grand Allee Fountain. You will be answering questions about the beautiful plants and butterflies that inhabit the Gardens. You may also help with daily Butterfly and Insect Demos such as the Monarch Tagging.

- Training is on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 9am to 2pm in the Grand Hall and Gardens.
- State Fair pass pick up is Thurs., Sept. 21, choose 10am to noon -OR- 6pm to 8pm. Shifts will be 10am to 2:30pm and 2:30pm to 7pm.

RSVP for training Joan Youngblood at  
214.428.7476 ext. 27

or [jyoungblood@texasdiscoverygardens.org](mailto:jyoungblood@texasdiscoverygardens.org)

## August Meeting



Sunday

August 20, 2006

2:00 P.M.

*Our favorite speakers, Native Dave and Christy Ilfrey will speak on tough natives that are drought-resistant. They will also talk about plants that show off their beauty in the fall, are readily available in fall, or that perform better when planted in fall. In addition, they will address water issues related to plants, specifically to natives.*

*Rohde's Nursery is located at:*

*1651 Wall Street*

*Garland, TX 75041*

*972/864-4445*

*[www.beorganic.com](http://www.beorganic.com)*



# Field Trip



**Field Trip to Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) in Fort Worth.** Saturday August 19, 2006. The tour begins at 11 am.

Members wanting to carpool can meet in the parking lot of the Sam's on Northwest Hwy and McCree in Dallas (near LBJ) at 9:30am. Please RSVP to Antonia at 1-972-635-2757 to let her know you intend to carpool.

The presentation includes a 6 ½ minute video on the history of BRIT and herbaria. Tour the herbarium containing 1 million dried plant collections as well as the botanical library housing approximately 75,000 volumes rich in taxonomic literature on botany and horticulture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the last half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Look at an old herbal, see the oldest, longest running botanical magazine, the "Vogue" Magazine of Botany, or take a close look at 200 year-old beautiful hand-painted flower engravings.

**Directions and parking (from BRIT website):** (<http://www.brit.org/About/MapDir.htm>)

Take the North I-35W & 287, Downtown exit. Merge to the left lanes and take the Spur 280 exit. Follow it as it curves around, then bear to the right and exit on 4th Street. Turn right at the first light (Jones) and right at 3rd Street. Go two short blocks to Pecan Street (not marked) and turn right. Follow Pecan between the two warehouse buildings and go behind the building to your left into the parking area. Park in any spot marked "Botanical Research".

Saturday parking...park anywhere there is a spot marked Botanical Research or not. Other businesses are not around on Saturday.

Plant id's can take place before or after the tour.

# Welcome New Members

- Diana Wilson  
Email: djcdfw@juno.com



Even though it's hard to imagine Autumn right now, reserve the following dated for the *2006 NPSOT Annual Meeting and Fall Symposium*: Thursday, October 19 through Sunday, October 22, 2006. This year's meeting will be held in San Antonio with headquarters at the Marriott Northwest Hotel. The theme is *Convergence and Diversity: Native Plants of South Central Texas*. For more information and details on how to reserve your room at the hotel, see the following page of the NPSOT website: [www.npsot.org/events/FallSymposium2006.htm](http://www.npsot.org/events/FallSymposium2006.htm).

## 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, clip and mail this application, along with the appropriate remittance, to :

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

( ) Student.....\$15.00 ( ) Senior citizen...\$15.00

( ) Individual .....\$20.00 ( ) Family.....\$25.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation  GARLAND

New ( ) Renewal ( ) Address Change ( )

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

You may also give your application and remittance to Carol Shoemaker at the next meeting. How easy is that?



### Next Meeting

September 17th at Rohde's  
1651 Wall Street  
Garland, TX 75041  
(972) 864-4445

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

*Thanks, Greg, for letting us use your space.*