

# The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas  
Garland Chapter

[www.npsot.org/garland](http://www.npsot.org/garland)

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February 2007

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## Side Oats Notes

Hello, fellow native gardeners! The theme song of this news letter is, "*Anticipation*," by Carly Simon. Some of us may remember it from the ketchup commercial. It is time to cut back our perennials in *anticipation* of our spring gardens. For the last couple of months, we really have not been thinking of our outside world, it has been too cold. However, this past weekend the warmth gave us cause to *anticipate* the spring. When you start pruning your perennials, and you see the little green rosettes, you begin to *anticipate* the spring growth. This is the joy of a perennial garden!

Also, in *anticipation* our next couple of meetings:

This month Tom Frey will be speaking to us about Spring Creek Forest. Tom Frey is an employee of the City of Garland Parks and Recreation Department and a Landscape Architect. Then the following week, February 24<sup>th</sup>, is the annual Trout Lily Walk at 10 am and 1 pm. Between the walks, we will have a work hour for our demonstration garden, about 11:30. Our membership population is so knowledgeable about natives and planting. I am amazed at how much I can learn from our members. It is also a fun time to enjoy and get to know each other. I hope to see you there!

In March, I am excitedly *anticipating* Renee Richeson, a Master Naturalist, who is coming to talk about propagation of our native plants. I know this is a topic people have been asking about. It is a very timely topic, because when we learn about cuttings, then we can go home and propagate plants! And in *anticipation* of our annual plant sale, we can propagate more than we need for our garden and they will be just the right size to sell in our May plant sale.

Last month, we all enjoyed Marcy Marsden who informed us how to acquire "A Garden of Birds." She told us that if you plant the right plants, the birds will come. Soon after that, Butch and I looked out our back door to see about forty Cedar Waxwings. They were awesome! On another day, Butch saw a couple of little yellow rump warblers in our sesbania. In *anticipation* of the purple martins coming, Butch is repairing and cleaning the purple martin house. Also, Mark Yarborough brought some beautiful photographs to share at our last meeting. Thank you, Mark, for sharing. We are enthusiastically *anticipating* your presentation to us in October about wildscaping.

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

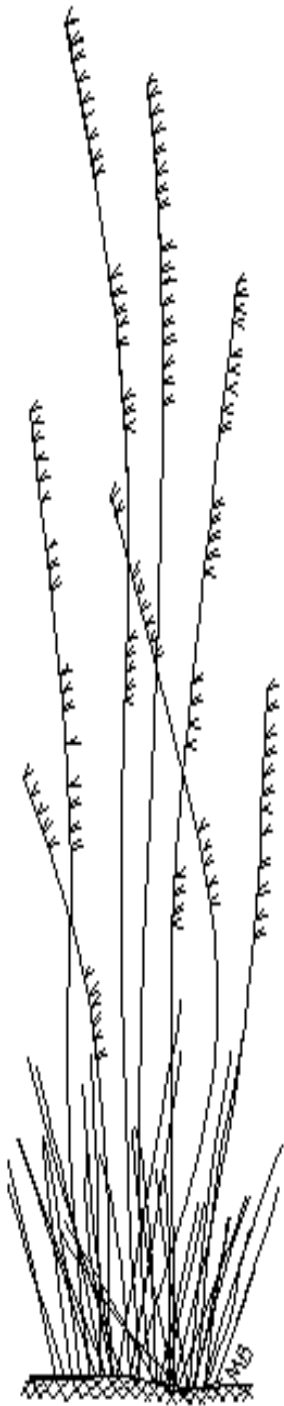
Happy Gardening & Grow Native!

Donna G. Simon

Chapter President.

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### 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

## Cenizo (*Leucophyllum frutescens*)

Cenizo is known as Texas Sage, Purple Sage, Texas Ranger Plant, Barometer Bush, Texas Silverleaf and many other common names. Cenizo grows in abundance on limestone hills, bluffs, in ravines, and on brush lands and dry plains in some parts of the Edwards Plateau, South Texas, Trans-Pecos Texas, and northern Mexico. It has become a favorite xeriscape plant for residential and commercial landscapes. Although the native cenizo is still sold in a few nurseries, varieties of cenizo that are more suitable to landscaping have been developed from selective cuttings of the native species. These varieties include: Green Cloud, White Cloud, Compact, Convent, and Silverado. Cenizo is an evergreen shrub, but in the winter its attractive gray-green foliage will thin out. Its bell-shaped flowers are really what it is known for. Flower colors range from white, pink, purple, lavender, and violet. Some believe that the plant blooms only after a rain; in truth, however, an increase in humidity whether before or after a rain will cause it to bloom.

**Deer Resistance:** Deer do not usually browse cenizo. The only disease that it seems to be susceptible to is cotton root rot, which may occur with too much irrigation.

**Planting sites:** Cenizo adapts well to sandy or clay soils, and even poor soils as long as the planting site is well drained. It should be planted in full sun in raised beds or berms to prevent root rot. Cenizo should not be planted next to or into an irrigated bed or lawn. Space plants two to three feet apart. Cenizo is hardy to 5 degrees F.

**Watering instructions:** Water thoroughly to promote the settling of soil around the roots. Repeat watering a few days after planting. Water deeply every 7-10 days, checking an inch or two into soil at edge of root ball to determine soil moisture. Skip a watering after a rainfall of ½ to 1. **First fall and winter:** Reduce water during fall and winter. In a "normal" year, no watering may be necessary in fall and winter, but during a dry period, monthly watering may be desirable. **Second spring and thereafter:** Water monthly only in periods of drought. Once established, Cenizo will survive with little or no supplemental irrigation.

**NICE! Tip:** Cenizo is an excellent alternative to non-natives such as nandina, ligustrum, pyracantha and variegated privet. Plant cenizo with other native plants to promote a beautiful landscape that will provide a diversified native habitat for wildlife.

Adapted from the Website of the Boerne Chapter of NPSOT



*Cenizo-Green Cloud cultivar*

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

*Spring Creek Forest Preserve  
With Tom Frey  
Landscape Architect, Garland Parks and  
Recreation Department*

February 18, 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!*  
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## Community Events

### Texas Discovery Gardens:

Organic in the City Series: *Murderous Plants—Poisonous Herbs in our World: Love Potions You Don't Want* Tuesday February 13 6pm Cost for Adults is \$10 which includes a glass of wine and a snack. Hosted by Barney Lipscomb

Rose Garden Walk Saturday February 17 10:00 am Lead by Peter Schaar, local rose expert, includes information on planting, pruning and long term maintenance. Cost— TDG admission price

Spring into Action\* (bed prep/composting) Saturday, March 17 10 am Learn how to get your vegetable and flower beds ready to plant! Michael Bosco owner of Soils Alive LLC. & Sustainable Growth INC will be here to discuss composting methods and soil health. Cost— TDG admission price

For more info on any of these TDG programs : Call 214-428-7476 or visit the website at [www.texasdiscoverygardens.org](http://www.texasdiscoverygardens.org)

### Spring Creek Forest Preserve:

Trout Lily Walks: Saturday February 24, 2007 10:00 am OR 1:00 pm 1770 Holford Rd Garland. Tom Frey leads the 14th annual trout lily walk.

### NPSOT Garland Chapter

Workday Saturday February 24, 2007 at about 11:30 (in between Trout Lily walks.) Join us in cleaning up our chapter's demonstration garden next to the parking lot at Spring Creek Park Preserve, 1787 Holford Road, Garland across the street from where the walks will be held. Bring gloves, weeding tools and water.



*Erythronium albidum* Trout lily or Dogtooth violet at Spring Creek Forest Preserve February 2004

### Audubon Society of Dallas –Cedar Ridge Preserve

7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, Texas [www.audubondallas.org/cedaridge.html](http://www.audubondallas.org/cedaridge.html)

### Great Backyard Bird Count

**Details:** The Great Back Yard Bird Count runs from February 16 to 19. You have two ways to participate:

A. On your own. (1) Select a site -- your backyard, a local park, your lakeside property, anywhere. (2) Visit the GBBC web site ([www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)) for instructions, then count birds on any of the four dates. (3) Re-visit the web site and report your sightings. It's that simple.

B. At Cedar Ridge Preserve. If you want to participate and not get involved with GBBC instructions and reporting, participate in CRP's own GBBC on Saturday, February 17 from 8:00 to 3:00. A/c Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden, you may count birds on your own or join up with one of CRP's naturalists for a guided bird walk. Our goal is 25 species on that day.

RSVP to Marcy Brown Marsden [biomarcy@winwaed.com](mailto:biomarcy@winwaed.com) , 214-492-9409.

Geoffrey B. Stanford Trout Lily Walks #1 Sunday February 18, 2007 2pm or #2 Saturday March 3, 2007 at 10:00 am Master Naturalist and long-time CRP volunteer Jim Varnum will conduct a short walk to observe trout lilies. The walk will last approximately 1 hour. Bring your camera. Wear sturdy boots or shoes with good ankle support. Join Jim for a nature walk afterwards. RSVP to Jim Varnum [jvarnum@aol.com](mailto:jvarnum@aol.com) , 972-243-4098

For links to these and other organizations go to [www.npsot.org/Garland/links.htm](http://www.npsot.org/Garland/links.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 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.

My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view.

- H. Fred Ale



# 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) 864-4445

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

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