

# THE GRAMA GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS  
GARLAND CHAPTER

Volume IX, Issue 2

February 2006

## SIDE OATS NOTES

Greetings,

Our speakers this month are the dynamic duo of Christy Tinsley-Ilfrey and David Ilfrey of Native Dave's, a landscaping design firm specializing in native and sustainable designs. You may remember them from our October 2004 meeting. They energized and informed us all. I'm pleased they have agreed to speak to us this month and again in August. February's topic is lupines; they will use them to demonstrate the relationships between native plants and the other organisms within our ecoregion. This may sound dry, but I think Dave and Christy would make reading the phone book exciting.

On Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, are the annual Spring Creek Forest Trout Lily walks at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The clean up will be between the trout lily walks at about 11:30. Carol Shoemaker will supervise the clean up at our demonstration garden at the Spring Creek site on the west side of Holford Road. The chapter garden there is about 8 by 15 feet. Clean up involves easy weeding. Please come help.

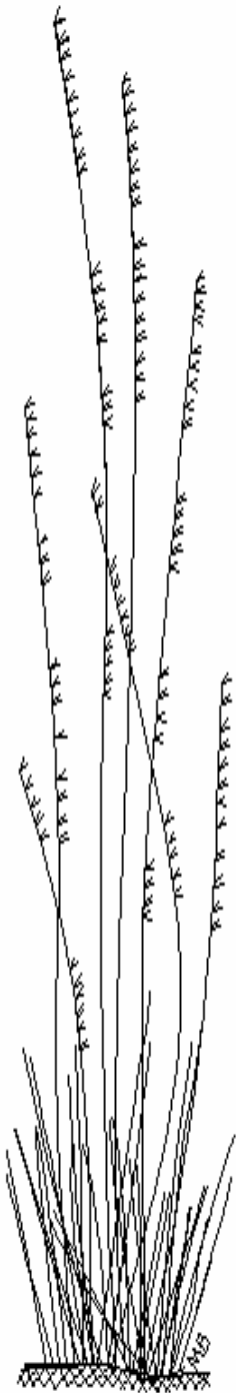
I've suggested a "reporter" for our newsletter to Carol Mills and she has agreed to the idea. Now we just need a volunteer! What I had in mind is someone to compile the calendar column. The reporter would search some local nature web-sites for events we might be interested in attending. Then make a column and e-mail it to Carol to insert into the newsletter. Once you have the web-sites in your favorites list, and Carol and I can send you some, the job isn't hard. It should take an hour or two and you will learn what is going on in our area. I suggested this because I've done the newsletter and know the whole thing can become tiresome by your second year. I also think this is an easy way for a member to contribute to our chapter. I know many members are afraid to volunteer because they think the job is too difficult or too time consuming. This task definitely is not either.

If you are new to native plant gardening and don't have plants to share for our sale in May you can contribute your old pots for others to use. The most useful are 4" pots. Please bring them to our meeting.

As always our meetings are open to all. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday. Bring a friend and help spread the word on native plants.

*Antonia Messina-Gates*

Chapter President



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

### Texas Discovery Gardens:

#### **Flying Wild: Songbirds to Raptors**

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 18th

Bring your whole family to meet live hawks, owls, and falcons from the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center. Try your hand at building a nest, flying through bird hurdles, creating a bird buffet and eating like a bird. Learn what to do if you find an orphaned or injured bird. Admission (includes Flying Wild activities and free parking): \$3 adults, \$2 seniors, and \$1.50 children (3-11). Children under 3 admitted free.

[texasdiscoverygardens.org](http://texasdiscoverygardens.org)

214/428-7476

### Spring Creek Forest Preserve:

February 25th: Trout Lily walks and Work Day

The Trout Lily Walks are at 10 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and are led by Tom Frey of the City of Garland. As Antonia said in her letter, we will work between the walks. Spring Creek Forest Preserve is located at 1770 Holford Road, Garland, Tx.

### Dallas County Lepidopterists' Society:

March 11th: The first field trip of the season will be at 10 a.m. at Mountain View Community College. The Society will walk in Mountain View's native area in search of early spring butterflies. See the Calendar of Events at <http://www.dallasbutterflies.com/main.html> for more information.

### Native Prairies Association of Texas

On March 25, 2006, the Native Prairies Association of Texas will have a workday at the Riesel Prairie Land Preserve to control invasive plants. Go to [www.texasprairies.org/events/news.htm](http://www.texasprairies.org/events/news.htm) to contact Jim Varnum if you are interested in volunteering.



*Dicentra Formosa*  
*Bleeding Heart*

## February Meeting

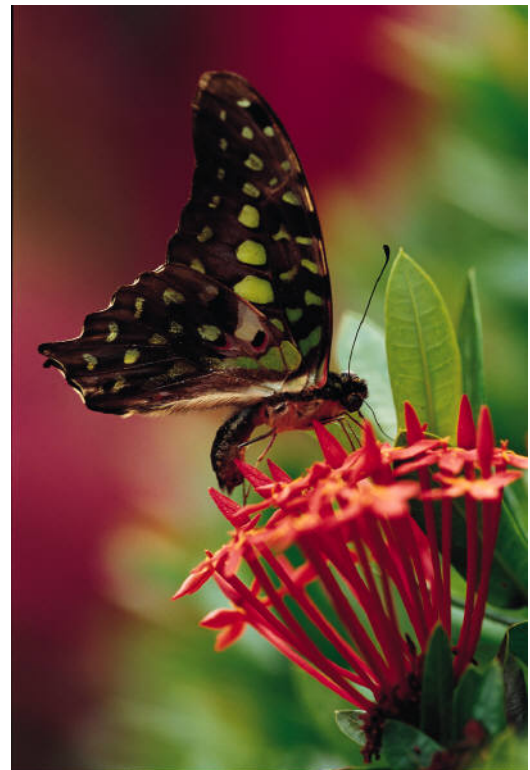
**This Sunday**

**February 19th**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Meet and Greet at 1:45 p.m.**

**Bring a friend.**





## Minutes of the January 2006 Meeting

President Messina-Gates greeted everyone and introduced the officers and Barbara Merry, who is creating the website which we should have in a couple of months. Shauna Feely is the new historian. Butch Simon is the Publicity Chairman. Both Shauna's and Butch's positions are new.

President Messina-Gates passed out flyers advertising our meetings for us to take and hand out.

On February 25th, the Spring Creek Forest Preserve Trout Lily walks will take place. After the first walk, we will work in our demo garden. Work days are really fun; we get to talk and learn about plants. There will be another in April.

There is a change in the format of the meeting. We will have a break for refreshments. The club will supply tea and water, and members can bring goodies if they want to. First there will be a business meeting and then a break followed by the rest of the meeting (usually a guest speaker).

President Messina-Gates has also tried to schedule activities after the meetings. There is none scheduled for a time after the February meeting. If you have an idea, please volunteer it.

We have decided to send out the newsletter to our visitors for a couple of months after their visits.

Shauna Feely reported that she met Randy Schoen, a staff person with the Audubon Society now stationed at Cedar Ridge Preserve. He put out a list of all the birds sited at the preserve in 2005 and gave a comparison of the birds sited in 2004. He also listed goals and published a calendar of events. He encourages visitors to go on winter walks at the Preserve. President Messina-Gates asked if

anyone would be interested in going on a February walk there.. There was not immediate response, but feel free to get with her if you are interested.

After the break, President Messina-Gates introduced out speaker, Tina Dombrowski and made the point that Tina is always looking for volunteers at the Texas Discovery Gardens.

Tina presented a lecture on Texas trees.. She mentioned the tree walk the Saturday following the NPSOT meeting (which some of us went to, and it was great).

Some of the highlights of Tina's talk were:

- There are 102 species of trees at Texas Discovery Gardens
- Trees in "nature " have a different lifestyle than trees in an landscaped setting where they are subjected to unnatural situations.
- You should start your landscape design with tree species.
- Avoid anything that leads to arborcide (tree murder) such as weed whacker decline, severe pruning, and building planters around trees.
- Some simple maintenance you can practice is: remove ivy from tree trunks; call out professional help to remove compacted soil or to expose roots if you are building around trees—let them use their air spades.
- Pick the right trees for a site—Trees are a LONG TERM investment.
- Tina then talked about 20 small to medium sized trees and provided many interesting facts. She took questions afterwards. Antonia told us that Tina can also answer butterfly questions.
- Finally, Tina gave tips on tool maintenance; Take chainsaws to professionals for sharpening; use fine metal files to sharpen hand tools and then oil the blades; use sandpaper to clean trowels and shovels; and use a metal brush to clean other tools and then oil them; replace handles when necessary.

We then had a drawing for the plants that were left over from the holiday party.

Dona Simon reminded us to begin potting up our plants for the May 6th plant sale which will be at her and Butch's house this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Mills  
Secretary

# Editor's Notes

- Membership for the Garland Chapter has been renewed. The membership database has been updated to indicate that chapter dues have been received at the state office and that the expiration dates have been updated.
- NPSOT (the state organization) is facing a deadline to submit IRS forms which have been delinquent for several years. This failure to file in a timely manner could result in NPSOT's losing its tax exemption status. The Garland Chapter is in compliance due to Carol Shoemaker's diligence. THANK YOU CAROL!

## 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 **NPSOT's new address:**

**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  
March 19th 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.*

