

The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
Garland Chapter

www.npsot.org/garland

Volume IX Issue I

January 2007

Side Oats Notes

Salutations fellow native plant enthusiasts and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday. I am so enthusiastic about this year in the plant society. We have planned an informative and delightful schedule for 2007. This month, on January 21st., we are having a representative from the Audubon Society speaking about "A Garden of Birds." It just happens to be a favorite speaker of ours, Marcy Brown Marsden, who spoke on native orchids last spring. She is definitely a woman of multiple talents.

In February, we will have Tom Frey coming to speak about Spring Creek Forest. The following weekend, February 24th, will be the annual Spring Creek Forest Trout Lily Walk at 10 am and 1 pm. If you have not been on the walk, it is a treat. We will have short weeding and work hour at our demonstration garden to weed between the two walks (about 11:30). It is a fun time to enjoy camaraderie and learn more about natives. I hope to see you there!

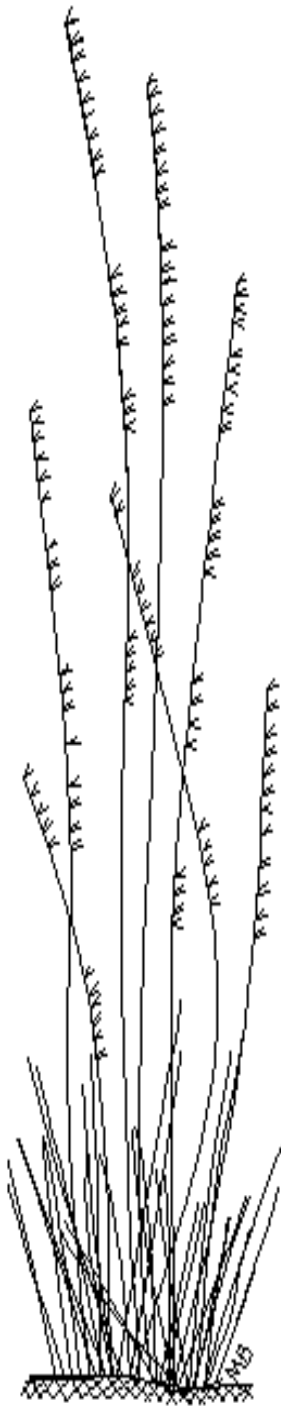
The coming attraction in April is double the fun! We will have two Plano Master Composter volunteers who will discuss composting basics. Also on the schedule our topics include: Edible Natives, Woody Lilies (Yuccas and more), Proper Care and Pruning of Our Native Plants, Wildscaping, and Propagation. So as you can see we have lined up several interesting topics. Of course we still have on the schedule some interesting field trips and our annual plant sale. There are plenty of ways to get involved and find out about native plants. You can always see what is going on in our chapter by going to our chapter website and clicking on calendar. <http://www.npsot.org/Garland/> Barbara Merry is our Webmaster and has done a wonderful job of compiling links and useful information also. Please check it out.

Our holiday party was quite a success. We really enjoyed seeing everyone and eating such wonderful foods! I want to personally thank Antonia and Marv for hosting. Antonia also did such a wonderful job as president last year. Her native plant knowledge and dedication to growing the chapter has been an inspiration to all of us. All of the people involved last year Shauna, Butch, Carol Shoemaker, Carol Mills, and Antonia have helped create a vibrant and growing chapter. We all hope for continued success in 2007!

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

For winter color try...

Coralberry

(Symphoricarpos orbiculatus)

Family: Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle family)

Other Common Names: Indian Currant, Buckbrush, Turkeybush, and Snowberry

Type: Shrub; 2 to 4 feet in the Hill Country.

Natural Habitat: Woodlands, thickets, and along streams in eastern third of Texas and the eastern U.S.

Growth: rapid growth, short-lived, thicket forming, shallow rooted.

Preferred Site and Use: Understory; groundcover or small arching shrub.

Deer Resistance: Somewhat.

Wildlife: Attracts butterflies and birds.

Light Tolerance: Partial sun to shade.

Flowers: June-August; tiny greenish white to pink.

Fruit: Showy, 1/8 inch dark pink, berrylike drupes in the late fall that remain throughout the winter.

Leaves: Deciduous but almost evergreen; simple, opposite, small oval leaves.

Spacing Width: 2 feet, spreading.

Water Requirements: Medium

Soil Requirements: Sands, loams, clays; well drained neutral to alkaline.

Propagation: Firm-wood cuttings of current season's growth.

Maintenance: Low; cut back to ground every 3 years for thicker growth. In small landscapes or to keep it from spreading, the branches need to be trimmed before they touch the ground.

NICE! Tip: Coralberry makes a great ground cover and remains pretty all winter, especially under oak trees. It can be used in place of invasive vinca. To prevent leaf mildew in a landscaped environment, plant it in well-ventilated areas. Excellent plant for erosion control.

Excerpted from website of NPSOT Boerne Chapter



Photo by Mary Cariker



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

**“A Garden of Birds”
with Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden
of the
Audubon Society of Dallas**

January 21, 2007 at 2 pm
Rohde's Nature Store and Nursery
1651 Wall Street
Garland
972-864-4445

Please bring a friend!



Community Events

Texas Discovery Gardens:

Volunteer Opportunities and Training/Orientation Dates:

Share your interest and enthusiasm about gardening, nature and important environmental issues by volunteering at Texas Discovery Gardens. Opportunities are available year round and no prior volunteering experience is required.

Earthkeepers® - Choose either **Saturday, January 13 from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm** or **Tuesday, January 23 from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**. Similar material will be covered in both but the Saturday session will have more information on Scouting and Birthday programs and the Tuesday session concentrates more on School Programs. **RSVP:** Joan Youngblood ext. 27.

Greenhouse/Gardening Orientation - Saturday, January 20 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 **RSVP:** Beverly Hayes ext. 21.

Texas Trees Garden Walk 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, Texas Discovery Gardens

Join us for a guided tour covering everything you ever wanted to know about selecting, planting and maintaining trees. If you have questions about a tree in your yard or you're thinking about adding one, don't miss this opportunity to get expert advice. Beverly Hayes, Director of Horticulture will lead the tour and Harold Spiegel, President of Preservation Tree Service, www.preservationtree.com will be on hand to demonstrate and give expert advice on the correct methods of tree pruning and maintenance.

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.

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

Audubon Society of Dallas at Cedar Ridge Preserve:

Winter Nature Walk Saturday January 20, 2007 10:00 AM

Description: Master Naturalist and long-time CRP volunteer Jim Varnum leads a walk through forest and field to look at wintry things. Here's an opportunity to get out of the house for a couple of hours to observe winter birds, winter color (leaves and berries), and maybe even some butterflies. Fun for adults and children.

Field Trip Details: Walk will start at 10:00 AM and will last approximately 1.5 hours. Bring your binoculars and camera. Wear sturdy boots or shoes with good ankle support. **RSVP** to Jim Varnum jvarnum@aol.com , 972-243-4098

Conservation in Action Workday Saturday January 20, 2007 8:30 AM

Workday Details: Workday will start at 8:30 AM and will last approximately 3.5 hours. Wear sturdy boots or shoes with good ankle support. **RSVP** to Randy Schoen rschoen@audubon.org , 972-754-1755.

Spring Creek Forest Preserve:

Spring Creek Preserve Workdays: Saturday January 20 and Saturday February 7, 10:00 am– Noon

Meet at Spring Creek Forest Preserve 1770 Holford Rd Garland www.springcreekforest.org

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.



**Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ...
a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to
unfurl.**

And the anticipation nurtures our dream.

- Barbara Winkler

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+)...\$15.00
() 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.

**For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider,
every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver.
- Martin Luther**



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>

Chapter Leadership Team

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