

The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
Garland Chapter

www.npsot.org/garland

Volume IX Issue III

March 2007

Side Oats Notes

Hello, fellow native gardeners! This is such an exciting time for us! The wonderful joy of having a perennial garden is another reason to plant native!

In our garden, plants are starting to stand up a little taller, turn green or greener, and show themselves as temperatures rise. I love the spring! We go out to our garden and see little things popping up and sprouting out all over the place. Our parrot has started mimicking us, "Look at this!" he says. We just start looking at our plants and he says, "Look at this!" He is so funny! Our plum tree is in bloom with beautiful white delicate blooms.

Last month, Tom Frey spoke to us about Spring Creek Forest. He is so knowledgeable about local flora. It was a real treat to hear him speak. Then the following week the annual Trout Lily Walk was very nice. I have a great picture of a Trout Lily on my desktop from the walk. That was the day we had the dust storm. It was very windy, but the temperature cooperated.

Thank you to all who showed up for our weeding of our demonstration garden. Those in attendance were: May, Antonia, Marv, Mary, Carol Mills, Carol Shoemaker, Diane Glass, Butch, and I. It was fun and the weather cooperated for us, until later. We could use another work day, but the garden is in much better shape now than it was. We also saw some of the recently installed blue-bird houses.

On March 18th, Renee Richeson, a Master Naturalist, is coming to talk about propagation of our native plants. It is a very timely topic, because when we learn about cuttings, then we can go home and fill our gardens. And it is wonderful to be able to share our plants with others. Of course, save a few of your cuttings for our annual plant sale in May.

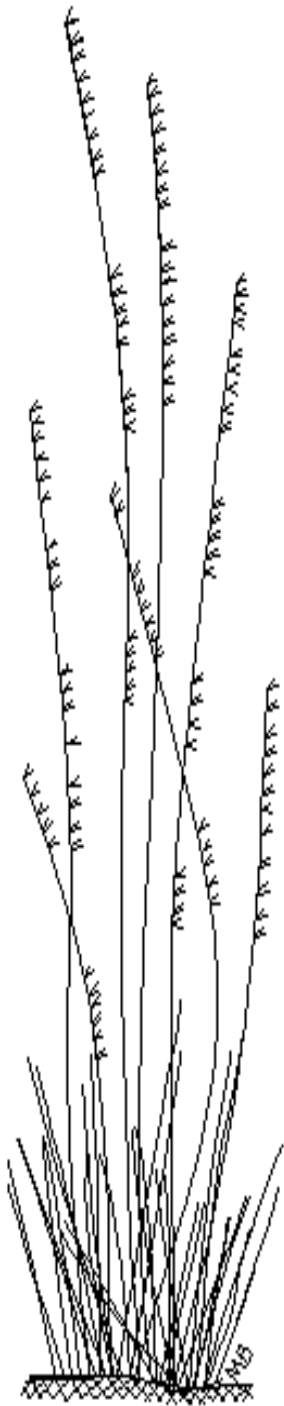
In April, we are having the Master Composters from Plano come to tell us the benefits of composting. Also, we will be having an Earth Day picnic at Antonia and Marv's in Fate. If you have not been to Antonia and Marv's place it is always a treat.

Our meetings are open to all, so bring your friends! Help us spread the word on the benefits of planting natives. Continue to pray for rain, so that our gardens will be full and plentiful this year and our lakes begin to rise.

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

Penstemon cobaea

Common Names: Wild Foxglove, Cobaea beard-tongue, Cobaea penstemon, False foxglove, Fox-Glove, Foxglove, Prairie beard-tongue

Family: Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

Type: Perennial wildflower with winter rosette

Wildlife: Attracts butterflies, moths and hummingbirds.

Light Tolerance: Part shade or full sun; plant where the rosette receives shelter from the sun in the summer

Blooms: April or May; large white to pale pink to lavender to rosy purple

Spacing Width: 9 inches apart

Soil Requirements: Sands, loams, clays, limestone outcrops; well drained

Propagation: Seeds (blooms second year). Collect seed in summer when capsules are brown and seeds are black.

Wild Foxglove is native to the Blackland Prairie and can be naturalized in a meadow. When be massed in a garden it puts on a spectacular show for a few weeks in the spring. The rosette sends up a 1-1 ½ foot stems a few weeks prior to blooming. In full bloom the 2-3 inch bell shaped flowers can cover two thirds of the stems and range in color from white with light purple stripes to a rosy purple.

Editors note: The specimens in my yard faired very well this past year with little or no supplemental water and are preparing to send up their flower stalks.



Penstemon cobaea –from stock rescued from Plano tree farm a few years ago



Go to [North Central Texas Smartscape®](#) for tips and information on how to :

- Conserve water and save money on water bills
- Beautify your home and local environment
- Attract butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife
- Prevent and help reduce storm water pollution

The link is also on our chapter website. You will find a Water Conservation Guide, a photo gallery of water smart gardens, a calendar of events and classes, native plant lists, maintenance tips and much more.

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

Propagation of Native Plants
Renee Richeson,
Master Naturalist

March 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!

Community Events

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

Spring into Action* (bed prep/composting) Saturday, March 17, 2007 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

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, click on the Donate Now button to the right
Members \$35 Non-Members \$45

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/cedaridge.html

Conservation in Action Workday – Saturday March 17, 2007 8:30 AM 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 Coralroot Orchid Search Saturday March 31 to April 28, 2007 Spring coralroot orchids (*Corallorrhiza wisteriana*) are cousins to the famous CRP Haxalectris 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 jevarnum@aol.com, 972-243-4098

Other Area Events and Walks:

Richardson Urban Naturalist Early Spring Wildflower Walk March 24, 2007 10 am-11:30 am Spring wildflowers bloom in early March in Texas. And by mid-April they are spectacular. Master Naturalists Nancy Lee and Jim Varnum will lead us through the Breckinridge Park prairie to point Texas spring wildflowers. Bring your wildflower books, binoculars, cameras and water. **Location:** Breckinridge Park, Moroney Dr off Renner Rd. Richardson **Register:** Call Richardson Parks Dept., 972-744-7850 to register, \$5.00, \$7:00 non-res. **Information:** MN Jim Varnum, jevarnum@aol.com, 972-243-4098, cell 214-543-2055.

Parkhill Prairie Plant Searches Sunday, March 25, 2007 at 10:00am and again at 1:00 pm.
Parkhill Prairie is a Collin County Park in the eastern edge of the county. It has an area of about 400 acres of mostly prairie, some forest and riparian land. Master Naturalist Jim Varnum is compiling a plant list for Parkhill. You are welcome to come along and search for plants and/or have Jim tell you how he finds and identifies them. **Directions:** From US 75 in McKinney, take US 380 east 22 miles to FM 36. Turn left (north) and go north 8.5 miles to Co Rd 1130 on the left. Turn left and go 1.0 mile east to Parkhill on the right. **Details:** Outdoor/hiking attire. Bring water & snacks. Also visit http://www.co.collin.tx.us/parks/parkhill_prairie.jsp **Contact:** MN Jim Varnum, jevarnum@aol.com, 972-243-4098, cell 214-543-2055.

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



NPSOT Garland Chapter Activities

Annual Plant Sale Saturday May 5, 2007—Mark your calendars and begin potting plants for our sale. Remember to label the plants with the botanical name and/or the common name

April Meeting April 15, 2007 2pm Composting

Chapter Picnic Sunday April 22, 2007 details pending

Minutes of the February 2007 Meeting

The February meeting of the Garland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas held on February 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 made the following announcements:

- The club picnic is scheduled for April 22, 2007, Earth Day, instead of July as in previous years. Details on arrangements for food will be presented at the March meeting or in an email.
- She reminded us the meeting room has a magazine area - members are encouraged to bring magazines to share and trade.
- Individuals may also bring plants for our monthly door prize drawing.
- Plants may also be brought for identification.
- Promote the Native Plant Society at every opportunity. Invite your neighbors and friends to a meeting.
- Donna requested butterfly plants for a gift basket for Luke's school, another way to spread the word about our organization.

Don't forget to renew your membership before it expires.

Donna announced that this following Saturday (2/24/07) the club will attend the Trout Lily Walk at Spring Creek Forest Preserve. There will be walks at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Working around those two walks, our chapter will have a Work Day at our demonstration garden located across the street from the site. Come to the Trout Lily walk. Come to the Work Day (please bring your own tools).

The meeting was then turned over to our speaker, Tom Frey. Tom has been with the City of Garland for 25 years. He is the Landscape Architect with the Parks and Recreation Department. Tom is a graduate of University of Georgia, a Registered Landscape Architect, a Licensed Landscape Irrigator, and a Certified Arborist. He spoke to us about the Spring Creek Forest Preserve.

Tom talked about the Forest Preserve, the history, the spring that feeds the perennial water source, the soil, the different elevations, and of course the plants. He showed some marvelous slides as he talked about the interaction between the trees, the fungi, and the bacteria as well as the other plants that inhabit the forest. He pointed out the importance of the light these trees receive. He enumerated the dominant plants in each of three areas: the creek bottom, the creek bank and on the surrounding slopes.

The meeting closed with a drawing for several door prize plants supplied by our members and left over from our holiday party. Donna reminded us that we will need many plants for our annual plant sale in May, our only fund raising function each year. 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.

Glenda McCune, Secretary

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.

It is always a great pleasure-and surprise-
when you happen on the perfect place in
which to plant some special treasure.

Margery Fish, *A Flower for Every Day*



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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