

# 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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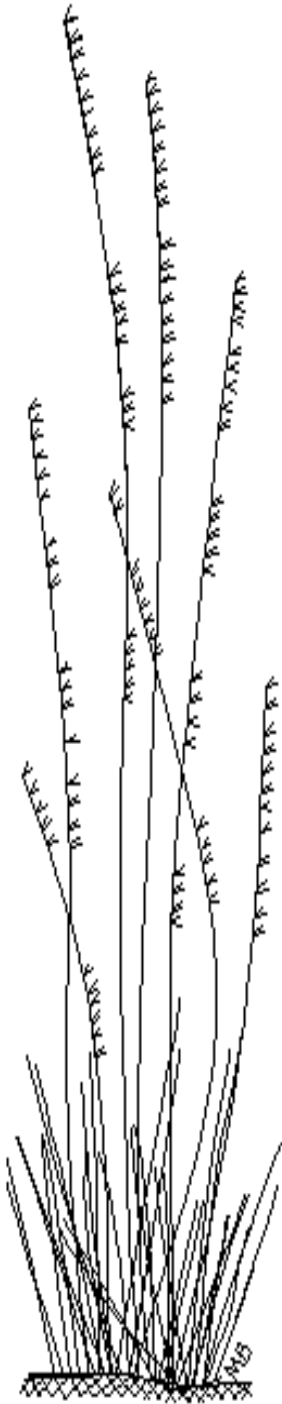
## Side Oats Notes

I've been thinking about surprising things that happen in the natural world. In late February, I was sure we'd slipped into spring without any winter storms. But the first week of March brought two storms with sleet and snow within days of each other. I have since learned a March snow is not that unusual in North Texas.

I've had two surprise bird 'encounters' in as many years: neither bird was found where you'd expect it would be. Two years ago I found a quail in my back yard! Naturally, she ran from me, hiding beneath the deck under dry leaves. This beautiful, though frantic, bird stayed on with us for several days. I was relieved when she was gone, and I hoped it was on her own terms. This winter I've been watching a hawk I see some mornings on my way to work. I first saw this large bird high in the crown of a tree, in fields behind a big box store near major inter-sections. I thought it surely was a one time sighting, but I continued to see it off and on all winter. The last time I saw it, it was on the ground of the open field, pausing in its task to stare back at me.

Trout lilies were my great surprise this weekend- I joined a 'search' walk led by Master Naturalist Jim Varnum, and was excited at the idea of finding trout lilies in a new location. However, none were found in a protected area along Rowlett Creek. Jim rewarded us, though, with a short trip less than a mile away from the search site, where he knew trout lilies were growing. These were plentiful and gorgeous, and in plain view in a public location! I found a sweet clump of 5 open flowers and one closed blossom, each with two trout-speckled leaves. I marveled at the younger, single leaved plants.

I learned with surprise carnivorous plants are native to Texas. They are found as far north as Wood County, Texas, and east and southward, into the lush, diverse world of the Big Thicket. Michael Pagoulatos will speak at this week's meeting on the intriguing Carnivorous Plants of Texas. I look forward to hearing about these beautiful plants, what they 'eat', and their habitats in the ecosystems of bog and savannah. And the good news is, pitcher plants should soon be in bloom!



### 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

See you Sunday.  
Happy Gardening & Grow Native!  
Shauna Feely, Chapter President

## Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*)

**Growth:** Slender tree

**Preferred Site and Use:** Most attractive when given space and sun so it can develop an even, rounded crown. Can also be grown as an understory tree.

**Wildlife:** Fruit contains a poisonous substance that makes it unappealing to wildlife.

**Light Tolerance:** Grows in partial shade to full sun.

**Flowers:** Drooping clusters of delicate light pink to yellowish flowers. If you have a color preference, choose one in bloom. Blooms March to May.

**Fruit:** Attractive black, leathery pod with 1-8 shiny brown seeds. Pod often remains on tree all winter.

**Leaves:** Deciduous leaves, up to 8" long, with 13-17 leaflets.

**Soil Requirements:** Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained.

**Maintenance:** Easy to grow in a wide variety of soils, moderately fast growing, drought tolerant.

**Planting Instructions:** Space plants 10 feet apart. Dig a hole at least two times wider than, but the same depth as the root ball in the nursery container. Sides of the hole should be irregular, not smooth. Remove plant from container, taking care to support the root ball. Loosen exterior roots gently with your fingers. If the plant is root-bound and cannot be loosened by hand, the outer roots may be cut in several places. Lift the plant by the root ball and place into the hole. Backfill hole, using soil that was dug out.. Do not add any soil to the top of the root ball, but a thin layer of compost may be spread over the soil surface. Gently firm the soil with your hands, but do not tamp it down. Place 3-4 inches of mulch over the bare soil around, but not touching the base of the plant.

**Watering Instructions:** Water deeply after planting to settle soil around roots. Then every 7-10 days, as needed, during the first growing season. Before watering, check for soil moisture at a depth of an inch or two at the edge of the root ball. Skip a watering after a rainfall of ½ to 1 inch. Maintain this watering schedule until the first fall. Reduce watering during the cool fall and winter months. In a "normal" year, no watering may be necessary during the fall and winter, but during a dry period, monthly watering may be needed. Second Spring and thereafter: Water monthly only during periods of drought. Once established, natives will survive with little supplemental irrigation.



**NICE! Tip:** This is a pleasing ornamental, with delicate flowers in spring and, in winter, the attractive, beadlike seedpods that give the tree its name. This lacey, easy-to-grow tree should be used more often.

*Article excerpted and reprinted from NPSOT Boerne Chapter NICE! (Natives Instead of Common Exotics) list.*



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

***Carnivorous Plants of Texas  
Michael Pagoulatos***

**March 16, 2008  
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!*





Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest 1770 Holford Rd Garland [www.springcreekforest.org](http://www.springcreekforest.org)

**Workday –Saturday, April 5 10am – Noon** Spring Creek Forest Preserve

We will do some trail maintenance and clean-up. Please bring gloves, loppers, saws, and pruning shears. We recommend long-sleeves and jeans for the event. Contact: MN Barbara Baynham at 214-542-1244 or [baynham@nortel.com](mailto:baynham@nortel.com)

**Cedar Ridge Preserve 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas 75229**

**Conservation in Action Workday Saturday March 15 2008 9:00 am–noon**

**Description:** Come and join in the fun as we work in the butterfly garden and on the trails, and perform other chores. Water and snacks will be provided. Wear sturdy boots or shoes with good ankle support, bug & sun protection, and bring gloves if you have them though we will also have some available. Bring a friend! Information and to tell us you are coming - even if it is for just part of the morning: [volunteers@audubondallas.org](mailto:volunteers@audubondallas.org)

**Winter Tree ID Walk SATURDAY, March 15, 2008 1:00 PM**

**Description:** Long-time Cedar Ridge Preserve volunteer and Master naturalist Jim Varnum leads a walk to help you identify trees in winter when leaves are not the significant identifying feature. Even though it is close to the beginning of spring, some of the trees haven't "wakened up" to their spring cloak of leaves. **Information:** Wear hiking attire. Bring water and binocs. RSVP to Jim at [jvarnum@aol.com](mailto:jvarnum@aol.com).

**Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan St., Fort Worth , [www.brit.org](http://www.brit.org) 817-332-4111**

**BRIT Brown Bag Lunch. Summer Orchids of Texas by Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2008**

**12:00 noon** **Description:** Dr. Brown Marsden will share her research on the distribution and health of populations of the genus *Hexaletris* in north central Texas. This unusual orchid manages to withstand the heat of a Texas summer blooming under stands of juniper and oak. She will also discuss the unusual biochemistry involved in the nonphotosynthetic lifestyle of this rare genus. **Details:** Bring you lunch. Coffee will be provided. RSVP not required. For more information, contact: Pat Harrison, Assistant Director, Head of Education, BRIT, 817-335-4372, [www.brit.org](http://www.brit.org)

**Ed. note.** Let me know if you are interested in participating in the *Hexaletris* orchid research

**BRIT Brown Bag Lunch - Gardening with Woody Lilies Wednesday, April 09 2008, 12:00am - 1:00pm** Peter Schaar, Ph.D. will explain how to design with and grow woody lilies (agaves, yuccas, etc.) to achieve visual contrast and drama in a garden which is heat and drought tolerant. Goal: help you achieve a visually striking garden.

**Connemara Conservancy [www.connemaraconservancy.org](http://www.connemaraconservancy.org)**

**Habitat Walk with Rich Jaynes 9am Saturday Mar. 29, 2008**

Environmental Scientist, Rich Jaynes, returns to discuss the habitat areas, native prairie grasses, and management plans for the meadow preserve. All ages welcome

**Wildflowers with Jim Varnum 1pm Saturday Apr. 12, 2008**

Spring wildflowers bloom in early March in Texas and by mid-April they are spectacular. Master Naturalist Jim Varnum will lead us through the Meadow Preserve to point out and discuss Texas spring wildflowers. Bring your wildflower books, binoculars, cameras and water. All ages welcome.

<http://www.connemaraconservancy.org/meadow.php> for directions and logistics

**More Events Next page**





## Community Events continued

**Texas Discovery Gardens: Fair Park Dallas 214-428-7476 [www.texasdiscoverygardens.org](http://www.texasdiscoverygardens.org)**

**TDG Greenhouse Training Tuesday, April 08 2008, 9:00am - 12:00pm**

TDG Greenhouse Training - approved AT up to 6 hours. Learn about volunteering in our greenhouse April 8 with manager Sandy Hooper. Greenhouse sessions last from 9 a.m. to noon, and you'll find out about our practices involving washing pots, pruning, propagating and more.

Special Note: NTC allows advanced training hours for work in the greenhouse at TDG for a total of 6 hours maximum with 2 hours approved for soil preparation, 2 hours for plant propagation, 2 hours for plant transplanting, care and maintenance and all other work in the greenhouse be considered volunteer hours. Contact: Sarah Gardner at (214) 428-7476 x 23 or [contact@texasdiscoverygardens.org](mailto:contact@texasdiscoverygardens.org).

**Dallas Arboretum [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org)**

**Sustained! Creating a Sustainable Landscape Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden April 5 at 9am.**

You've heard the word, but what does it really mean and how do you apply it to your landscape? Join David and Christy Ilfrey, owners of Native Dave.com, as they introduce you to the process and practices needed to create a garden that is not only beautiful, but it conserves resources and is the responsible way to garden! Learn how to reduce the time you spend on maintenance, why these practices will attract wildlife to your landscape and how to provide seasonal interest throughout the garden. Register at [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org)

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



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## Chapter Notes

**Last Chance Native and Heirloom Plant Sale May 3, 2008**

Remember to pot, water and identify seedlings and other plants for our annual fundraising plant sale.

Planting tips: Use a light weight potting soil. Add organic fertilizer. Label plants, using plastic spoons or knives and indelible ink. Include Latin name, common name, color of bloom.

**Member's Annual Picnic** will be held Sunday April 20, 2008, at the home of members Marvel Gates and Antonia Messina-Gates, in Fate, Texas. Joining us will be photographer, Carroll Mayhew, who will give instructions and tips for using digital cameras and taking great photos of our favorite native plants! Time to be determined.

Members are encouraged to bring their digital cameras, questions and problems, and a pot luck dish to share. More information to follow.

**May 18th, Chapter Meeting at Rohde's Nursery**, speaker will be Randy Schoen of the Audubon Society, who will speak to us about Dogwood Canyon.



## Minutes for February 2008

The Garland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas met in the little red schoolhouse behind Rohde's Nursery and Nature Store on February 17, 2008.

Chapter President Shauna Feely called the meeting to order at 2:13 pm.

Shauna made the following announcements:

- Membership renewals are mailed to you by the state. If you don't receive yours when you believe you should, then she will be able to check your status.
- The annual plant sale will be May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Butch and Donna's.
- The Springcreek Park Preserve Workday will be Sat, February 23 or March 1 if rain arrives.

There is no news yet of the butterfly garden at Rowlett Elementary but, Antonia Messina- Gates reported that the garden at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church will now have a Master Naturalist working with it.

A motion was made by May Foreman and seconded by Peggy Tajchman to move the October meeting to October 12 so it wouldn't coincide with the State Symposium. Another motion was made by Antonia Messina Gates and seconded by Mary Cariker to combine the April meeting with the picnic April 20.

Shauna then introduced our speaker, Matt White, the author of Prairie Time, a Blackland Portrait. As he discussed the migration of people into the blackland prairie, he delighted us with pictures of how the land would have looked around the time of the early 1800s. Following that, he went through a progression of different types of prairies and discussed the various types of plants and wildlife supported. Before finishing, he talked about the vanishing birds from some of these areas and some of the plants known to be indicator species of prairies.

The meeting ended with a drawing for the door prize plant of a pot of rain lilies.

Susan Anderson, Secretary



### Project BudBurst

“Join us in collecting important climate change data on the timing of leafing and flowering in your area through Project BudBurst! This national field campaign targets [native tree and flower species](#) across the country. With your help, we will be compiling valuable environmental and climate change information around the United States.”

Go to [www.budburst.org](http://www.budburst.org) for more information.

## 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.



# 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) 864-1934

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



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*Answering to their names  
Out of the soil the buds come,  
The silent detonations of power  
Wielded without sin.*

R.S Thomas,  
*A Book of Gardens, 1963*