

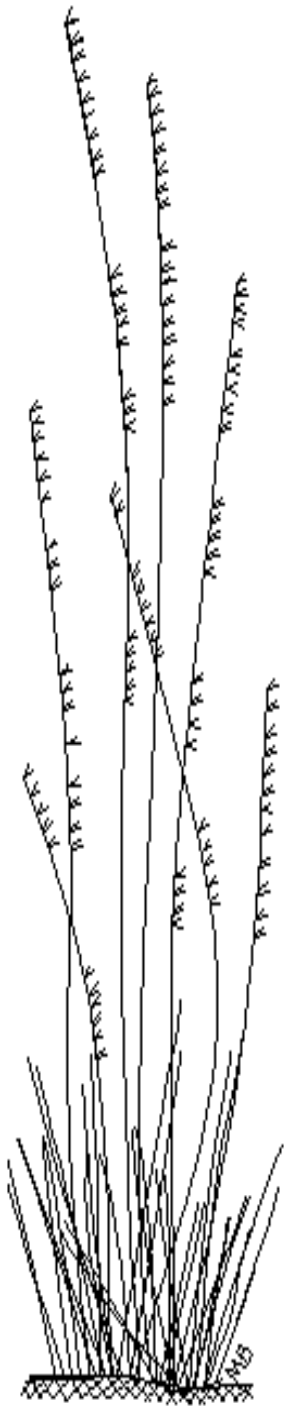
The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
Garland Chapter

www.npsot.org/garland

Volume IX Issue IV

April 2007



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

Side Oats Notes

Hello, fellow native gardeners! This has been a great month for our gardens. The rain and cool nights made our garden bloom a little later this year, but our plants are getting much bigger. Thank goodness for the rain. Our lakes are filling up! The drought is not considered over yet, but we needed this wet spring.

This month has been busy for our chapter! First, Mark Yarborough spoke at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on using native plants for a Wildscape. He is going to be giving us that talk in October. Glenda, Butch and I handed out brochures and set up our display board. It was a fantastic opportunity to inform people about the benefits of using natives in our gardens. The display board that Antonia made was beautiful and informative. One of the participants also donated for our plant sale.

For our April meeting, we had the Master Composters from Plano, Becky Morales and Ruby Jambalos, come to tell us about the benefits of composting and composting basics. I enjoyed their talk and learned about having a worm ranch for earthworm castings. She kept her earthworms in a container in her kitchen nook.

Also, we had an Earth Day picnic at Antonia and Marv's in Fate on Sunday, the 22nd. The weather was perfect. We played games and had prizes. We sat under the trees to gab. We also went on a tour of Antonia's property to identify plants. Thank you Antonia and Marvel for your hospitality.

Of course, I am not forgetting our plant sale. We had a plethora of people who volunteered including: Carrie, Carol S., May, Cassie, Shauna, Susan A., Mary C., Antonia, Barbara M., Sarah (my daughter), Butch, Marv, Dorothy R., and Kathy N. Almost all of those people donated plants and more. We had visits from old friends and new friends. It was great weather and great fun! Carol's report after depositing in the bank was a net of \$1428.01! Wow! Our most unusual request at the plant sale was a man who wanted to buy daisies to plant a daisy garden, because they have a new puppy named Daisy. J

This month on the 20th, **Hester Schwarzer**, from the Ft. Worth Chapter is coming to speak about Edible Natives. She will have recipes and ideas for us all. I love my herb garden and pepper plants, so I am looking forward to hearing what she has to say!

Glenda has gone out of town, and asked Butch and I to babysit some new cuttings; Hotlips Salvia, Nuevo Leon (blue salvia) and Rock Roses. We will bring them to our meeting to give away. 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.

Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Description: Coral honeysuckle (evergreen honeysuckle or woodbine) is a perennial, almost evergreen vine with a woody base. Native to the eastern half of Texas and the eastern U.S. as far north as Massachusetts, coral honeysuckle can be found in woods, thickets, slopes, cliffs, and sandy soils. The high climbing or trailing runners can be 15 feet or longer, making coral honeysuckle suitable as a fence or trellis covering, a tall ground cover, a slope stabilizer or a small shrub. The simple, opposite leaves are 2.5 inches long, round to oval, and have a whitish underside. The plant's common name refers to its coral-colored flowers. In our area, coral honeysuckle usually blooms from March – May, but it may bloom almost all year long. The two-inch-long slender trumpet-shaped flowers occur in clusters of four to ten blossoms. April - December brings the very showy bright red, berries. For humans, the berries are not edible.

Planting sites: Coral honeysuckle grows best in moist, fertile soils, but can be planted in sand, loam, clay, caliche or poorly drained soils. This plant prefers morning sun and afternoon shade, but can be planted in full sun. Its growth can be controlled, and it will not overwhelm the landscape.

Planting Instructions: Space plants 6-8 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 it into the hole. Back-fill, using soil that was dug from the hole. 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: After planting coral honeysuckle, water the site well in order to settle soil around roots. An organic-based root stimulator may be used according to instructions on the product label. Water deeply a few days after planting, 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 rootball. Skip a watering after a rainfall of ½ to 1 inch. Maintain this watering schedule until the first fall. Reduce watering during fall and winter. In a "normal" year, no watering may be necessary during the fall and winter, but during a dry period, monthly watering may be needed. From the second spring and thereafter, water monthly only in periods of drought.

NICE! TIP: Coral honeysuckle is an excellent plant for attracting butterflies, birds and hummingbirds. It is great for arbors, because it is not a messy plant. Most reliable way to propagate is by softwood cuttings taken from summer to fall. It is a nice plant to use in a hanging-basket planter.

*Article courtesy of NPSOT Boerne Chapter NICE!



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

Edible Natives

Presented by

Hester Schwarzer

May 20, 2007

Meeting/Question & Answer Time at 2 pm

Program begins at 2:30 pm

Rohde's Nature Store and Nursery

1651 Wall Street

Garland

972-864-1934

Please bring a friend!
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NPSOT Garland Chapter Activities

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Community Events

Texas Discovery Gardens: 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Fair Park. 214-428-7476 or visit the web-site at www.texasdiscoverygardens.org

Butterfly Plant Sale 10am - 2pm Sat, June 2

New this year: Members only preview sale! 1:00 pm – 7:00pm Fri, June 1

Call for Volunteers– The Texas Discovery Gardens has several events planned for which it needs volunteers, such as the Butterfly Gardening Class, the Native plant sale, Organic in the City series, and Earthfest. If you would like to volunteer for any of these events contact Melissa Martin 214-428-7476 ext. 25 or mmartin@texasdiscoverygardens.org.

To volunteer to help propagate native and adapted plants contact Beverly Hayes at 214-428-7476 ext.21 or bhayes@texasdiscoverygardens.org.

To volunteer to help with children's classes, tours, scout programs, etc. Please contact the Education Department, Joan Youngblood at 214-428-7476 ext. 27 or youngblood@texasdiscoverygardens.org



Gregg's Mistflower (*Colconium greggii*)

Texas Master Naturalist-North Texas Chapter www.ntmn.org

Wildflower Tour -- Visit Clymer Meadow, Parkhill and Cow Leech Prairies. SATURDAY, MAY 19 9AM-3PM

Mid-May is the height of the wildflower season in the northern Blackland Prairie. Purple Indian paintbrush, white winecups, prairie larkspur, prairie phlox and others are abundant. The Clymer Meadow Preserve, located 15 miles northwest of Greenville, is one of the last and largest remnants of the once extensive Texas Blackland Prairie. The tour will begin with Clymer Meadow in the morning, followed by the nearby Parkhill and Cow Leech prairies after lunch. Your tour guide will be Jim Eidson of the Texas Nature Conservancy, assisted by MN Jim Varnum



Long pants, boots, sun hats, water and insect repellent are recommended. Bison viewing may be available. Grab your cameras, pack a lunch and join us for a fun day walking through the wildflowers of Texas! Free, open to the public. Registration required. Jim Eidson. 903-568-4139 or eidseimann@hotmail.com. Clymer Meadow web site <http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/texas>

LBJ Grasslands Plant Walk (Decatur area) SATURDAY, MAY 19 9:00 AM

Description: We will be exploring 2 to 3 different units of the Grasslands, which comprise over 20,000 acres in Wise County. The Grasslands are interspersed with private land.

Meeting Spot: At the LBJ National Grasslands office, which is located on Highway 287 in Decatur, ½ mile north of 287 and Loop 380. The office is on the right hand side. The office will be closed, but we will caravan from here to the different sites we'll visit. Make time for a

restroom break before you get there, or you will be going out in the boonies. Grassland maps are available at the Decatur office or by mail from their website. Information is available from http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/texas/recreation/caddo_lbj/caddo-lbj_gen_info.shtml For Information and to RSVP: Jeff Quayle at s-quaylei@earthlink.net or 817-729-0283

Plant Walk at Walnut Grove and Bob Jones Park (Southlake) with MN Jeff Quayles SATURDAY, JUNE 2 9 AM -12 NOON

Description: Located on the SE shores of Lake Grapevine, with approximately 500 acres of East Cross Timbers habitat. Directions: From Dallas, Take Hwy 114 west from DFW Airport. Take exit for White Chapel Rd.

Directions: Turn and go right for about 1 mile to Bob Jones Park on your right.

Walnut Grove and Bob Jones Park. Southlake. <http://www.bjnc.org/mapanddirections.php> More info and to RSVP: Jeff Quayles-quaylei@earthlink.net or 817-729-0283

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

Minutes of the April 2007 Meeting

Minutes for the April meeting of the Garland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas held April 15, 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 expressed her gratitude to Mark Yarbrough, Master Naturalist and a member of our chapter of the Native Plant Society. Yesterday, April 14th, Mark did a presentation at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Wildscapes. Donna expressed her appreciation for the great job that Antonia Messina-Gates did on a display board prepared for that meeting and for future presentations.

Donna reminded the members of the following events:

- Party for the Planet, at the Dallas Zoo, April 21. Volunteers to station our information table and display are Donna and Butch Simon, Marvel and Antonia Messina Gates, Carol Shoemaker and Shauna Freely.
- The club picnic is scheduled for April 22, 2007, Earth Day. The picnic will be at the home of Antonia and Marvel Gates. A sign up sheet is available for food items.

May 5th is our plant sale, held at the home of Donna and Butch Simon. (Timetable: 9:00 - 10:00 am Bring donated plants, 10:00 to 3:00 Sale). Carrie Yarbrough asked for help potting up her donated plants.

Donna reminded everyone that Texas Discovery Garden is still looking for volunteers for the greenhouse and their upcoming plant sale, June 2nd. Hopefully we will have a information table at that sale.

Donna then introduced our speakers: Becky Morales and Ruby Jambalos, both Master Composters. They gave a very interesting slide show on Composting. They covered the *Whys*, the *Benefits* and the *5 Rules of Rot* related to composting. They demonstrated the *material* layering, the ideal *mass* (3 cu. ft.), the *moisture* (50%, like a damp sponge), the *air* required for aerobic life and the *time* (quicker if it is turned - hot method or longer if it is not - cold method). They also brought some red worms used to decompose kitchen scraps. We each received samples of Plano Pure Compost.

The meeting closed with a drawing for a significant number of door prize plants.

Glenda Mc Cune, Secretary



If constant sprinkling is needed, nature is clearly suggesting that an alternative would be better.

Hugh Johnson, *Hugh Johnson's Gardening Companion*, 1996

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 _____

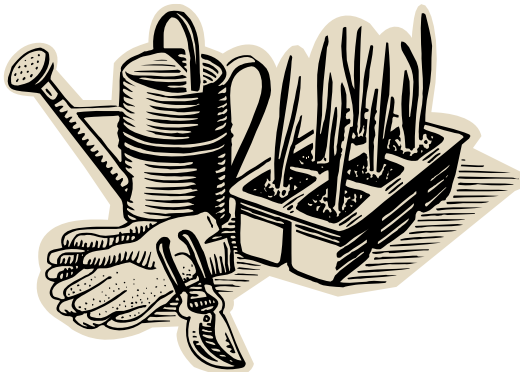
County _____ Phone _____

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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