

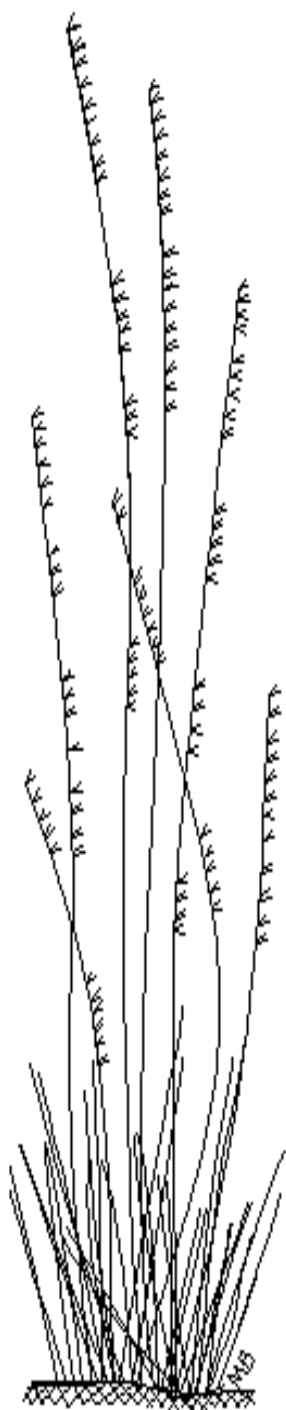
The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
Garland Chapter

www.npsot.org/garland

Volume IX Issue X

November/December 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!

November is harvest month. Many of our veggies are ready, if you grow anything to eat, we would love to hear about it, or even taste it. The trees are turning colors and the air will turn cooler this week. Our natives are still blooming and our gardens are still beautiful. Get out and enjoy your gardens this month.

It's party time for our chapter. Be at our house in Mesquite, by 5:00 p.m. for a wonderful time. We will share plants and have time to enjoy each other's company. If you would like to tour our garden, you can be there early around 4:00 p.m. We will start the indoor activities around 5:00 p.m. Please bring snacks and sweets to share.

This has been a very busy year for the NPSOT- Garland Chapter. Some of the highlights include:

- We donated "a butterfly garden" to a private school auction and delivered those plants to the person who won the auction along with information about the native plants.
- Antonia Gates, past president, created a display board showcasing our chapter and natives from our area.
- We set up a committee, planned, planted and will take care of a demonstration garden for one year at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Garland, Texas.
- We donated plants and money to Hillcrest High School for their xeriscape garden. Members met to weed our demonstration garden at Spring Creek Forest Nature Preserve. We met various times including: February 24th, the week of March 12th, and June 12th.
- Mark Yarborough, a member of our chapter, spoke at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on using native plants. It was part of a "Garden Fair in our Neighborhood". The church asked up to set up a display, answer questions, and hand out brochures.
- The Dallas Zoo had a "Party for the Planet" on Saturday, the 21st of April. We sent several people to volunteer to answer questions, hand out brochures and sit for a couple of hours by our display board.
- We had an Earth Day Picnic at the Gates' home.
- We had our annual "Native and Heirloom Plant Sale" in May.
- Texas Discovery Garden had their annual Butterfly Plant sale in Dallas, during which we set up our display board, answered questions, and handed out brochures.
- Texas Discovery Garden had their annual Native Plant Walk, which highlighted the Benny Simpson Garden, and we were there to help inform the public as well.
- The Garland Chapter also had eight representatives at the annual symposium at Georgetown in October.
- We had speakers who have informed us about birds, yuccas, edible natives, rain gardens, propagation, composting, and wildscaping.

Whew! We have been busy!

Bring your ideas to the party for next year! We want to continue to inform the public on the benefits of planting natives and we need your help. I have enjoyed this year as president, and getting to know many people who love gardening and plants as much as I do. I want to thank everyone who has been active in this chapter.

See you Sunday!
Happy Gardening & Grow Native!
Donna G. Simon
Chapter President

Roughleaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*)

A member of the Dogwood family (*cornaceae*), Roughleaf Dogwoods are shrubs or small trees whose opposite leaves are deciduous and have prominent veins that curve away from the midrib and then curve back something like parentheses (). This plant is thicket-forming and usually grows 10-15 feet tall. Creamy white blooms measuring 3 inches across occur in mid spring followed by clusters of small white berries in late summer. Roughleaf Dogwood's natural range extends from the Edwards Plateau through the eastern half of Texas and east to Florida; and grows in locations that vary from sun to shade, well drained to seasonal poor drainage, and acid to alkaline soils. The leaves turn red, maroon, mauve or pink in the fall.

Planting Instructions: Dig hole at least 2 times wider than, but the same depth as the root ball in the nursery container. Sides of the hole should be irregular, not smooth. Carefully remove plant from container, taking care not to break the root ball. Loosen exterior roots, if root bound. Plant at the same depth as the soil in the container. Do not add any soil to the top of the root ball. Adding a layer of 3-4 inches of mulch after planting is desirable.

Watering Instructions: After planting, water the plant well in order to thoroughly soak its roots. Repeat watering a few days after planting. Water deeply every 7-10 days, checking an inch or two into soil at edge of root ball to determine soil moisture. Stop watering after a rainfall of ½ to 1 inch.

Maintain this watering schedule until the first fall after planting. Reduce water during fall and winter. In a "normal" year, no watering may be necessary in fall and winter, but during a dry period, monthly watering may be desirable.

Water monthly only in periods of drought. Once established, Roughleaf Dogwood will survive with little supplemental irrigation.

NICE! Tip:

At least 40 species of birds feed on Roughleaf Dogwood. Although Roughleaf Dogwood will grow in dense shade, fruiting is heaviest when it receives at least 4 hours of direct sun. The aggressive roots make it invaluable for erosion control around a pond or on a stream bank. Because of its thicket-forming quality, Roughleaf Dogwood is an excellent choice for screening requirements.



Article reprinted from NPSOT Boerne Chapter NICE!

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The next meeting of the NPSOT, Garland Chapter will be our annual



*Holiday Party and Election of Officers
Sunday November 18 at 5pm*

Food, Fun and Fellowship

Native Plant Giveaway

Bring a Dessert or Appetizer

*Call Donna
To RSVP and get directions
972-226-6825*

Community Events

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

For the Birds ... December 8 at 10 a.m.

It's all hands-on in this Garden Walk/Workshop as we learn how to garden for wildlife in the winter. Bring the kids and work on fun projects to feed birds and native wildlife during the big chill. We'll tell you what plants to add to your garden that will attract birds all year long.

For Garden Walks, meet us by the Grand Hall. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and \$1.50 for children. Garden members are free. For more info, reach us at (214) 428-7476 x 23 or contact@texasdiscoverygardens.org



A male cardinal rests during winter. Attract more birds with fresh water and birdseed.

Cedar Ridge Preserve 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway , Dallas 75229

Conservation in Action Workday Saturday November 17, 2007 9:00 -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!

Location: Cedar Ridge Preserve, 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas 75229

Information and to tell us you are coming - even if it is for just part of the morning: volunteers@audubondallas.org

Do you have a photo, article or other suggestion for the Grama Gazette?
Contact Mary at marycariker@yahoo.com to submit your ideas.

Minutes for October 2007 Meeting of NPSOT, Garland Chapter

Minutes for the October meeting of the Garland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas held October 21, 2007 at the little red barn behind Rohde's Nursery and Nature Store.

Our speaker, Mark Yarborough, opened the meeting and presented an excellent program on Gardening for Wildlife. Mark, an active member of our Garland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, is a Master Naturalist, a member of the Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Rockwall and a member of the Board of Directors of Connemara Conservancy Foundation. He explained the requirements for a "Wildscape" (50% native species that provides shelter, food and water for wildlife). Mark described the few remaining acres of undisturbed prairie in Texas. This may be contrasted to the original prairie -- millions of acres, dependent on an underground biomass and periodic burning and/or feeding by bison. But even though that original prairie is impossible to recreate; there are things we can do to ensure our yards provide native plants that encourage native insects, birds, amphibians, and mammals. The result will be a chance to bring nature home, less yard maintenance, the possibility of educational experiences, and personal expression.

Mark and Carrie also described how great the demonstration garden at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church looks this fall.

During Mark's presentation, President Donna Simon and her husband Butch joined our meeting directly from their attendance at the NPSOT-NPAT 2007 Joint Symposium in Georgetown. Members: Antonia and Marvel, Carol S. and Shauna also attended.

Donna enthusiastically reported:

- The symposium was an excellent meeting, with lots of information, especially on Prairie grasses.
- It has been suggested that our chapter donate \$100 to Texas Discovery Gardens to purchase native plant seeds. They will use the seeds to propagate plants for their June plant sale. We will vote on this at the next meeting.
- The website software has arrived and our web site is up to date and running.

The next meeting of our chapter will be the holiday party, at the home of Donna and Butch. She requested an RSVP.

The meeting closed with a drawing for the door prize plants, a Mexican Buckeye, a Texas Mountain Laurel, a Flowering Maple and several Frogfruit.

Glenda McCune, Secretary



Fall color of Mexican Buckeye (*Ungnadia speciosa*)

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!

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If the only thing that moves in your backyard is a lawnmower, it's time to plant natives.

Joy Buslaff, Wisconsin gardener, quoted in "Home Front Where The Wild Things Are?" by Rebecca Lowell, *The Wall Street Journal*, August 21, 1998