

The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
Garland Chapter

www.npsot.org/garland

Volume X Issue X

November/December 2008



Side Oats Notes

Dear Friends and Native Plant Lovers: Fall is upon us as our gardens finish delighting us with their bounty and gracing us with their beauty. We are passing into the restful time of year in the garden, and we wind down our chapter's activities with an annual members' holiday party. We'll celebrate a little while our plants dig in their roots for their resting time.

Last month three members attended the NPSOT Annual Symposium and were treated to delightful sights in the Jasper, Texas area: we learned of tall pines, sandy soil, and heard interesting stories of the Big Thicket. It's a beautiful section of Texas- there has been much damage from Hurricanes Ike and Rita- tree tops are gone, and sometimes whole rows of trees are missing; blue tarps act as temporary roof patches on many homes- it seems hardly anyone escaped some damage. The areas state parks are still all closed: we were shown pictures of the tremendous storm damage to their trees. However, the preservation and conservation efforts in the area are astounding. I hope to go back and explore the area more. There are plenty of back roads to explore, but the people were just as welcoming.

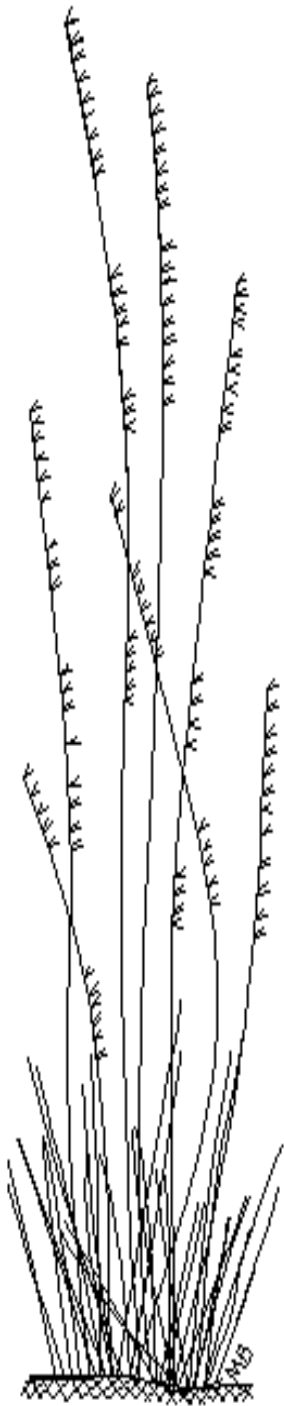
It's been a good year with the Chapter, hearing so many interesting speakers on many different topics. It really is incredible all the good work and good knowledge that lies out there in the area surrounding our Garland home base. Attendance was up this year and no speakers cancelled: both are indicators of a healthy chapter and healthy speakers!

It's been a pleasure for me to act as Chapter President this year, and I just wish there was more time to do more things together! No matter what doesn't get done, running the Chapter is really a joint effort of many people. Each Board Member contributes, even though you may not have noted their activities. To each of them we owe a great debt for helping to keep things running on an even keel during the year. And, each member and visitor also helps with their wonderful contributions to the plant sale, the door prizes each month, great suggestions for speakers they'd like to have come speak, and even a hand made wooden sign for the demonstration garden!!

I'd like to say a special thank you to Mary Cariker, our newsletter Editor, who is resigning after 2 years in this important role as chief communicator for the Chapter. Without the Editor, a Chapter is really at a loss for words! And, finally, a huge Thank You to Greg and the staff at Rohde's Nursery and Nature Store for welcoming us and hosting our meetings here.

Join us Sunday, Nov. 16 at my home for the annual holiday potluck party. Check your e-mail for time and directions, or feel free to get in touch with me.

Happy Gardening!
Shauna Feely
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

Description:

An excellent multi-trunked small tree, typically 12-15 feet tall, with smooth gray bark. The bright green leaves are deciduous, and are larger and thinner than the evergreen Yaupon Holly. Small white flowers appear in early spring, and female plants bear bright red to orange berries in fall. Berries may last through the winter unless eaten by birds. To assure a female plant, purchase in the late summer or fall when berries are present. Pollination is necessary to produce berries, but there are normally enough male plants around to accomplish this naturally. Other cultivated hollies may also pollinate.

Possumhaw Holly grows in woods and at edges of swamps in East and Central Texas, south to Victoria, and from Virginia to Illinois to the Gulf of Mexico. Its berries attract mockingbirds, cedar waxwings, and other birds, and its blooms attract bees in spring.

Planting Sites:

For berry production, site should receive 6 hours of full sun per day, but plant will tolerate dappled shade or part shade. Soil may be sand, loam, clay, or caliche, acid or calcareous. Can tolerate seasonal poor drainage.

Planting Instructions:

Dig hole at least 2 times wider than, but the same depth as the nursery container. Carefully remove tree from container, taking care not to disturb the root ball. 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:

If planting in spring: Water in well after planting, using root stimulator according to directions. Water deeply every 7-10 days, checking an inch or two into soil at edge of root ball to determine soil moisture. Skip a watering after a rainfall of ½ to 1 inch. **First fall/winter:** 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. **Second spring and thereafter:** Water monthly only in periods of drought. Once established, Possumhaw Holly will survive with only 10-20 inches of rainfall per year.

Other care:

Remove unwanted suckers to select main trunks. Do not cut back branches from tips, as this will ruin the natural tree shape. Remove entire branches back to the trunk if there is unwanted growth.

Possumhaw Holly (*Ilex decidua*)



NICE! Tip: Use instead of Crape Myrtle, Purple-leaf Plum, ornamental plums, Bradford Pear, or non-native large hollies such as Nellie Stevens or Burford.

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



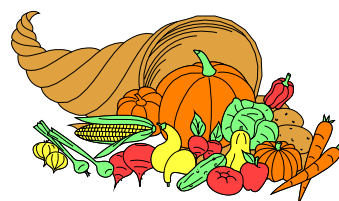
The next meeting of the NPSOT, Garland Chapter will be our annual Holiday Party and Election of Officers

Sunday November 18 at 3pm

**Food, Fun and Fellowship
Native Plant Giveaway**

Bring a Dessert or Appetizer

**Call Shauna
To RSVP and get directions
972-234-8793**





NATIVES IN AUTUMN
SEE PAGE 4 FOR PLANT ID'S.



Community Events

Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest 1770 Holford Rd Garland www.springcreekforest.org

Workday –Saturday, December 6 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 barbara_baynham2005@yahoo.com

Cedar Ridge Preserve 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas 75229

Conservation in Action Workday Saturday November 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

Connemara Conservancy www.connemaraconservancy.org

Habitat Walk with Rich Jaynes Saturday November 22 10 am–11:30 am
Environmental Scientist, Rich Jaynes, leads a walk through the various habitats - prairies, forest, riparian - to point out the flora and fauna that live in them You are welcome to join him. In Plano. On Alma Dr, just south of Bethany Dr. Go to: <http://www.connemaraconservancy.org/meadow.php> for directions and logistics and RSVP

Texas Discovery Gardens: 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Fair Park. www.texasdiscoverygardens.org

Third Saturday Garden Walk is 'For the Birds' Saturday, December 6 10 am to 11 am
It's all hands-on as we learn how to garden for wildlife in the winter. Bring the kids or grandkids 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.
Cost: Free with Paid Garden Admission: \$3/adults, \$1.50 for kids ages 3-11, and \$2 for seniors. Become a Garden member and enter for free! **Fine Print:** Program appropriate for ages 4 and up. (Adults, embrace your inner child and come out, too! Making peanut butter pinecones brings out the kid in us all! Don't worry: Hand wipes provided.)



Thanks to Marv for crafting a new sign for the demonstration garden at Spring Creek Park Preserve.

- Plants Id's from page 3
- 1 Skunk Bush *Rhus aromatica*
 - 2 Cowpen Daisy *Verbesina encelioides*
 - 3 Turks cap *Malvaviscus drummondii*
 - 4 Bushy Bluestem *Andropogon glomeratus*
 - 5 Autumn sage *Salvia greggii*
 - 6 Mexican Buckeye *Ungnadia speciosa*
 - 7 Coralberry *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*
 - 8 Virginia creeper *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*



Minutes for October 2008

Minutes of the October meeting of the Garland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, held October 12th, 2008 at the little red barn behind Rohde's Nursery and Nature Store.

President, Shauna Feely called the meeting to order. Shauna had two announcements: Next year we will need a replacement for newsletter editor, Mary Cariker. Please start thinking about this position and others in which you would like to contribute in 2009.

The tax exempt status of the NPSOT is currently under discussion between the state organization and the State of Texas. More information will be forthcoming.

Shauna welcomed many of the Biology students from Chapter member Jose Flores' Biology classes at Eastland College, who were attending to learn about the Texas Invaders program.

Shauna introduced our guest speaker Karan Rawlins, speaking on the Texas Invaders Program. Karan is a Naturalist at the Fort Worth Nature Center and a Grad student at UTA working on a Master's in Biology. To find out even more about the program, find out how you can help and possibly answer any questions you might have, visit their web site: <http://www.texasinvasives.org> .

"TEXASINVASIVES.ORG is a product of the Pulling Together Initiative, a Texas-sized partnership to manage non-native invasive plants. The Pulling Together Initiative is a collaborative project between the [Texas Forest Service](#), the [Forest Health Protection](#) branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, the [Central Southwest Gulf Coast Information Node](#) of NBII at the [Houston Advanced Research Center](#), and the [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)." *

This is a fascinating web site that has a data base of plants by common name, botanical name, USDA Species code, plant descriptions and a distribution map in Texas.

Karan explained the definition of an invasive, a non native plant that has the potential to cause economic or ecological harm. She demonstrated her data collection toolkit and explained how the program enables each of us to make a difference and the ongoing need to educate about non native plants and their rapid invasion of Texas. The program can use more volunteers and has periodic training sessions.

The next meeting will be the members' Holiday Party on November 16, 2008.
The meeting closed with a drawing for several door prize plants.

Glenda McCune, Secretary



* [Texas Forest Service](http://texasforestservation.tamu.edu/main/default.aspx), <http://texasforestservation.tamu.edu/main/default.aspx>
[Forest Health Protection](http://www.fs.fed.us/) <http://www.fs.fed.us/>
[Central Southwest Gulf Coast Information Node](http://cswgcin.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt) <http://cswgcin.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt>
[Houston Advanced Research Center](http://www.harc.edu/) <http://www.harc.edu/>
[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](http://www.wildflower.org/) <http://www.wildflower.org/>

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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The Native Plant Society of Texas is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization.

All monetary gifts and contributions to the Garland Chapter of NPSOT are tax deductible. Remember our chapter in your tax planning contributions for 2008. Thank you!