

THE GRAMA GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS
GARLAND CHAPTER

Volume VIII, Issue 9

October 2006

Side Oats Notes

Greetings,

We are finally getting some relief from the intense heat. What an enjoyable time to be outside creating more beauty or simply enjoying the results of your work. If you're planning some autumn planting now is the time. Donna Simon will have some good planting ideas for us in her *Wildscaping with Native Plants* presentation this Sunday. For those unfamiliar with the term, wildscaping means gardening to attract wildlife. My husband and I enjoy all the birds, butterflies, moths, frogs and others who visit our landscape. They add life and fun to our yard. Invite your friends to come learn how to draw wildlife to their gardens.

Next month, November, is our last meeting of the year. It is our annual holiday party at which we hold elections for officers. The party will be at my house at the regular meeting time. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. The party is restricted to paid members and their immediate family only. Our president-elect, Donna Simon, will automatically become president. All other positions are open. So far candidates are: Shauna Feeley for president-elect and Carol Shoemaker for treasurer. We still need a candidate for secretary/newsletter editor. The secretary takes meeting minutes, creates the newsletter and maintains the roster. Until last year the secretary and the newsletter editor were two different people. We could return to that format. I've maintained the roster for our current secretary and would continue if requested by the new secretary. If Shauna is elected we will need a new historian to maintain our scrapbook. If you are interested in running for any office please let me know. We could have more than one nominee per office. Is there a committee position you would like to create and maintain? Something you think the club is lacking? I would like to have our chapter represented at some garden events. I may volunteer to co-ordinate that. To keep our club vibrant we need all members to participate.

We still have funds to donate. If you have an idea for a worthy native plant project please share that with us. I would like the chapter to make a contribution back to our parent organization. It can be designated for their library, to complete set-up of new headquarters, or to use as needed. We can donate more books to local libraries. Fund a garden at a senior center? Finance another school garden? How about funding a native plant education program? What would you like to see accomplished with our funds?

For those not attending the NPSOT symposium, please bring your silent auction donations to Sunday's meeting along with its' written description. Send the description to Larry Maroney at: maroney@gvtc.com, fax 210.568.6900 or call 830.743.0187. If your family or friends are crafters or artists, perhaps they would donate something. NPSOT is a 501 (c)(3) and their item would be tax deductible.

If you attend the Texas State Fair make time to visit Texas Discovery Gardens. It is a peaceful respite from the fair and admission is free during the fair. Among the various garden areas is the Benny J. Simpson native plant collection where the sign our chapter is donating will go. Member Melissa Martin was recently promoted to Director of Texas Discovery Gardens. Congratulations and we wish you continued success Melissa!

Carol Shoemaker identified the mystery plant I brought for our September raffle. The plant with narrow leaves and yellow flowers is Four-nerve Daisy. It grows about ten inches tall. It is drought tolerant and has been blooming all summer in the wild. I think Rohde's has some.

Our post meeting activity will be a tour of Rohde's native plants and their gardens out front. So many times we just walk by without stopping to see what's at our meeting location.

Happy Gardening,
Antonia



Sideoats Grama
(*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

Sun, attractive seed form on one side of stems, state grass of Texas, attracts birds and butterflies, two to three feet tall.

Upcoming Events

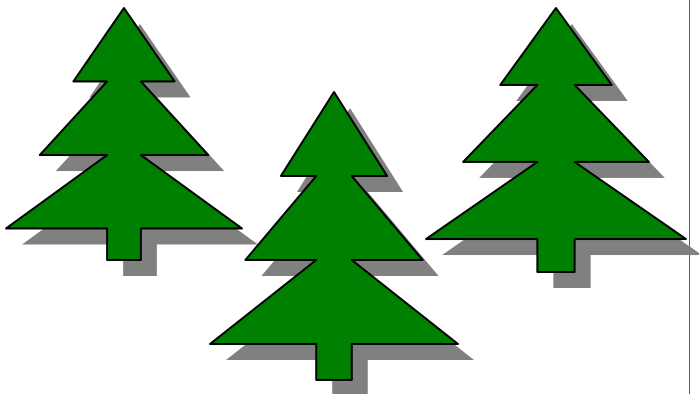
Things slow down this time of year due to the upcoming holidays. But there are a few events you can enjoy.

- **Texas Discovery Gardens**
- **State Fair of Texas**

Friday, Sept. 29 – Sunday, Oct. 22

In the Grand Hall, enjoy Gardening and Nature Talks each day at 2:00. Watch Michael Cook, award-winning textile artist, reel silk from silk moth cocoons in the Grand Hall each Sunday and Monday at 11:00. Say hello to the NPSOT volunteers working there. [Every member of Texas Discovery Gardens receives a voucher for free admission to the State Fair.](#)

- November 11, 2006: **Dallas County Lepidopterists' Society meeting** at 10:00a.m. Location: Dallas Museum of Natural History at Fair Park; Upstairs Auditorium
- **Spring Creek Forest Preserve:** November 4, 2006 Big Tree Walk at 10:00 am in the park by the baseball field behind Naaman Forest High School. Led by Jack Hill



October Meeting



Sunday
October 15, 2006
2:00 P.M.
Rohde's Nursery

*Our own Donna Simon will speak on
wildscaping with native plants.*

Rohde's Nursery is located at:
1651 Wall Street
Garland, TX 75041
972/864-4445
www.beorganic.com



Minutes of the September 2006 Meeting

Before the meeting actually began, Greg Rohde, our host, told us that he has beneficial nematodes. If you would like some for your garden, remember Rohde's.

Antonia said that if you want a nametag, please make out your check to NPSOT—Garland Chapter, in the amount of \$6.50 plus postage.

Antonia spoke of Andy Nardelli, who wants to section his church's garden and then get sponsors for each of them. Antonia proposed that we sponsor one of the sections. Andy has also said that he wants us to take over a garden in front as a "leader bed" to show the congregation how lovely a native garden can be.

Antonia then mentioned the second project, the pocket prairie biome at Hillcrest High School, and an additional project. This final project is to donate money for a sign at Texas Discovery Garden for the Bennie J. Simpson Native Plant Garden. The cost is \$685.00. The people at Texas Discovery Garden will install it if we buy it. Glenda suggested that we ask Tina at TDG for a few native plants in return.

Shauna moved to fund the sign. The motion was approved. Donna motioned to put in the gardens at Hillcrest and at Andy Nardelli's church, and that motion was also approved. Marvel suggested that we get publicity for our projects.

Carol Shoemaker said that it is easier to give money to Andy Nardelli than it is to work. We decided to form an ad hoc committee to visit the church grounds before making a commitment, especially because we don't know how large the garden is, how much the church will fund, etc.

Antonia urged us to go to the Fall Symposium, during which there is a silent auction. If you have anything to give for the auction, please do so. The money earned there pays for outreach, scholarships, education, and etc.

Our speaker, Brett Johnson, told us about Exotic Invasives, which he calls "Alien Invaders." He pointed out that 175 million acres of habitat per year is lost to invasive species and that most alien plants are *intentionally* planted. He urged us to continue our work to spread the word about the benefits of native gardens.

Rachel, a guest, spoke briefly about Permaculture. More information on the Internet.

We had a plant our plant raffle and called it a day.

Respectfully submitted on this day, October 10, 2006, by Carol Mills, Secretary

WANTED



OFFICERS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

We need a new secretary, and a new newsletter editor. Now is the time to put your leadership skills to work for a good cause. See Antonia to volunteer.



Next Meeting
Holiday Party
November 19, 2006
At Antonia and Marvel's

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, clip and mail this application, along with the appropriate remittance, to :

**Native Plant Society of Texas
P.O. Box 3017
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
830/997-9272**

- () Student.....\$15.00 () Senior citizen...\$20.00
- () Senior Couple\$30.00
- () Individual\$25.00 () Family.....\$40.00
- () Group\$50.00 () Patron\$100.00
- () Benefactor\$250.00 () Supporting\$500.00
- () Corporate\$1,000.00 () Lifetime\$1,000.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____

Chapter Affiliation GARLAND

New () Renewal () Address Change ()

E-mail Address _____

You may also give your application and remittance to Carol Shoemaker at the next meeting. How easy is that?

*Thank You Greg
Rohde for letting
us use your space.*