

# The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas  
Garland Chapter

[www.npsot.org/garland](http://www.npsot.org/garland)

Volume IX Issue VIII

September 2007

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## Side Oats Notes

Hello, fellow native gardeners!

September is a great month for our native plant gardens. The fall color is beginning to show. It is a great month to transplant plants and plan for next spring. The fruit trees are ripening, and butterflies are floating still through the air. The cooler nights have been very enjoyable, so take time to enjoy your gardens.

Last month, a Texas certified nursery professional and landscaping expert was scheduled to come; unfortunately, she was ill. We had a round table discussion about the care of our plants. It was nice to socialize and find out what others did to care for their gardens. Some of us even continued talking over an early supper.

This month's speaker is a treat. Carrie Dubberly from Dubberly Landscape Design is going to educate us about rain gardens. According to Wikipedia, "A **rain garden** is a planted depression that is designed to take all, or as much as possible, of the excess rainwater run-off from a house or other building and its associated landscape." I am very interested in using our resources wisely, including rainwater, and rainwater run-off. Please join us in learning about this fairly new (1990s) concept.

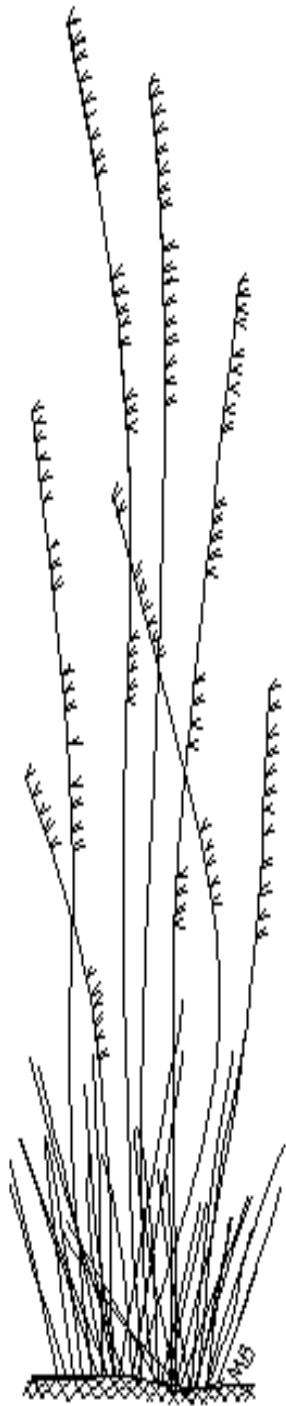
On Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, Master Naturalist, Jim Varnum is conducting a nature walk in our own Spring Creek Park Preserve at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for an informative walk. Also, I have planned a workday for our demo garden on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. We can meet at 8:00 a.m. and work for an about an hour to knock out a few weeds and cut back some plants. Bring gloves and gardening tools.

Butch and I are planning our trip to Georgetown for next month for the NPSOT/NPAT Symposium. I hope we will have several representatives from the Garland Chapter. Let us know if you are planning on coming. We will look for you there.

Remember to bring plants for identification and for giveaways for the drawings.

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



### 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

## American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)

### Description:

American Beautyberry is a 3 to 7-foot-tall, deciduous shrub with graceful arching branches. It is quite showy in the fall when 2-inch bunches of bright purple berries cover the branches. The berries are very attractive to birds, but will remain on the plant through the winter if not eaten. The plant blooms May-July with small whitish to pale pink flowers. The leaves are light green with coarse serrations on the margin. They may turn slightly yellow in the fall, but are not the plant's most attractive feature.

American Beautyberry occurs from Cuba north to Maryland, and west to Central Texas.

### Deer Resistance:

Deer may nibble at this plant but it is not a preferred food.

### Planting Sites:

This plant occurs naturally in moist woodland sites, so it should be planted in dappled to full shade under larger trees. Soil types may include sand, loam, clay, acid or calcareous, in either moist or well-drained sites. It prefers soil with some organic matter.



### Watering Instructions:

This shrub survives on 20-30" of rainfall per year, thus it is moderately drought tolerant. Its leaves may droop when it needs water. If planting in spring: Water well immediately after planting, using root stimulator according to directions. Water deeply every 7-10 days to promote deep roots that will withstand drought. A watering may be skipped after a rainfall of ½ to 1 inch. If planting in hot dry summer: May need more frequent watering at first.

### First fall/winter:

Reduce water during fall and winter. In a "normal" year, watering in fall and winter may be unnecessary, but monthly watering may be needed during dry winters.

### Second spring and thereafter:

Water monthly as needed.

### Other care:

Does not like to be sheared or hedged. In winter, prune unwanted growth by removing whole branches back to the stem. Pruning will encourage more compact growth.

### NICE! Tip:

American Beautyberry looks best when used in mixed plantings. It can be used in place of exotic shrubs such as Nandina, Mahonia, Hollies, Acuba, and Aralia.

\*Article excerpted from NPSOT Boerne Chapter NICE!



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

*Rain Gardening  
With  
Carrie Dubberly*

September 16, 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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## 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](http://www.texasdiscoverygardens.org)

**Skies of Butterflies Live Butterfly House Sept 15-Oct 21**

Immerse yourself in "Skies of Butterflies" in our Seasonal Native Butterfly House 2 weeks prior to and during the 2007 State Fair of Texas. A perfect spot for the entire family! Admission: \$3 per person

Hours before the Fair: Sat 10am-5pm, Mon-Fri 2pm-5pm Hours during the Fair: Sun-Sat 10am-5pm

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

**Seed Ball Making Session Saturday, September 8, 2007 9:00 AM - noon**

Cedar Ridge Preserve and the North Texas Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist will be making seed balls for distribution about the CRP property. Seed balls are made from fine humus, seeds, red clay and water. You hand-roll them (it's fun!) into about 1/2-inch diameter spheres and let them dry. Later you sow them onto the prairie where they sit until it rains. Then the seeds are deposited onto the ground and eventually germinate.

Come on out land learn the exact recipe and make some seed balls for us and maybe a few for yourself, too. Bring your family and friends. Kids love to do this. If you have any wildflower or native grass seeds that we could use, just let us know. For More Information contact : Jim Varnum at [jvarnum@aol.com](mailto:jvarnum@aol.com)

**Conservation in Action Workday Saturday September 15, 2007 9:00 -NOON**

**Description:** Come and join in the fun as we prune trails, lay mulch, weed in the butterfly garden, and perform other chores. We start at 9 a.m. and finish by 12 noon, but we would appreciate your help for even just part of that time. 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: Jim Varnum at [jvarnum@aol.com](mailto:jvarnum@aol.com)

**Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest**

**Workday Saturday, September 8 9:00 am** Spring Creek Park Preserve, 1787 Holford Rd Garland  
**Information:** Barbara Baynham at 214-542-1244 or [baynham@nortel.com](mailto:baynham@nortel.com) or <http://springcreekforest.org>

**Nature Walk at Spring Creek PARK Preserve Weds, September 26, 2007 at 6:00 PM**

Plant and wildflower guru Jim Varnum takes you on a walk through the prairie to point out fall wildflowers and help you identify them on your own. We'll also talk about anything we see -- plants, birds, butterflies, etc.. For adults, youth and kids. Bring binoculars, cameras, etc. SCPP is located at 1787 Holford Rd in Garland. It is on the right side as you drive from Pres. George Bush Turnpike toward Arapaho Rd. **For more information**, contact Jim Varnum [jvarnum@aol.com](mailto:jvarnum@aol.com) or 214-543-2055

**The Heard Museum** 1 Nature Place, McKinney [www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org)

**Fall Native Plant Sale October 12-14**

Choose from hundreds of native plants ideally suited for Texas weather including woody lilies, trees and vibrant, colorful perennials and wildflowers. Get expert advice to help you find the right plant for you and your landscape. Members only: Friday, 4-7 P.M. Open to the public: Saturday, 9 A.M.-5 P.M. and Sunday, 1-5 P.M. Check the website for a plant list and more information.

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## Minutes for August 19, 2007 Meeting of NPSOT, Garland Chapter

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Chapter President, Donna Simon, who announced the invited speaker for today was ill and not able to attend, opened the meeting. The presentation topic, Pruning and the Care of Native Plants, could therefore not be presented.

Instead, a group discussion of the effect of summer's extreme rainfall amounts, lesser sunshine amounts, and webworm outbreaks on members and guests gardens ensued. Observations ran from an increased number of spiders in houses, to problems with certain plants falling over from the rain's weight and the excessive growth rates; suggestions for improving soil; trimming back overgrowth before autumn; and the loss of certain heat loving plants, by different members. Other observations included the sighting of fewer bees and wasps in the blooming gardens, but an increase in the number of butterflies. A reminder was made that now is the best time to plant for fall gardens.

Donna Simon reminded all of the upcoming Annual State NPSOT Symposium in October. All were encouraged to register and make hotel reservations for the Georgetown event.

A plant was then shown for help with identification; it was discussed whether it was pigeon berry or pokeweed berries. The consensus was pokeweed berries.

Donna and Butch Simon discussed attending local lepidopterist Dale Clark's recently held annual open house. Dale Clark also maintains the website, [dallasbutterflies.com](http://dallasbutterflies.com), and has been responsible for many of the lepidopterist activities in the area.

Donna and Butch Simon, as well as Antonia Messina-Gates recently represented the chapter booth at the annual North Texas Landscapers annual trade show.

Next month's speaker was announced as Carrie Dubberly, who will present Rain Gardening. In October, Chapter member Mark Yarborough will present the topic, Wildscaping.

A report was made of the activities of the native plant garden Chapter members planted at Gloria Dei Luther Church in Garland. A red, white and blue garden was planted earlier in the summer. Recently, Antonia and Glenda met to weed. Carrie Yarborough stops by on her way home from work to water. Various suggestions were made as to how to further present plant advice to the church as its members attempt to increase the use of drought tolerant native plants on their grounds, in an effort to lower their water bill.

Discussion was made over scheduling another early a.m. work session at the Chapter's demonstration garden.

An announcement was made that Carol Shoemaker has decided to step down after several years as Chapter Treasurer. President Donna Simon requested that a member volunteer to fill that role for the group.

Mary Cariker and Donna Simon asked for suggestions for newsletter articles and topics for consideration. Ideas or articles were requested.

A motion was made and seconded to purchase the new Expressions web software, in order that webmistress, Barbara Merry, can continue making the Chapter website compatible with the State NPSOT's website.

The meeting was ended.

Submitted by Shauna Feely

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### Chapter Workday at Spring Creek Demonstration Garden

**Please join us on Saturday September 29 at 8:00 am at the demo garden in the Spring Creek Park Preserve. Bring water, work gloves, and tools.**

**We will work for about an hour to spruce up the garden.**

**The garden is located at 1787 Holford Rd in Garland**

## 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.

### **CALLING ALL MEMBERS**

All members are requested to donate something for the NPSOT Fall Symposium silent auction. The item does not have to be plant related. Last year's non plant selections included some wood turned items, a linen tablecloth with napkins, and beaded necklaces. So if you are crafty or know someone who is please consider asking for a donation. Include your name, contact info if you wish, a title for the item and its' value. This silent auction helps to fund NPSOT's programs. Please bring your donations to our Sept. meeting if you are not attending the symposium.

Please help our chapter make a good presentation at the symposium.

Thank you



## **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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