

THE GRAMMA GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF
TEXAS, GARLAND CHAPTER

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Side Oats Notes

Barney Lipscomb will be speaking to us about *The Basics of Collecting Plant Specimens and Plant Identification*. He is from the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. There will be a brief, informal talk and then a walk to demonstrate the “art” of collecting, followed by pressing, drying, labeling, and some basic identification. Barney is an excellent speaker and can really make a fun presentation out of collecting plants. He co-wrote the top plant identification book for the North Texas area. He is currently working on a two-part book of plants of East Texas.

As you all hopefully know, we had a record money-raising plant sale this year. I was thinking that we could donate several copies of the North Texas Identification book co-written by our speaker to the local libraries. It is an excellent reference book that most libraries would love to have in their collections. It is a massive book that has every single plant that grows in our North Texas area. I believe Barney will show us how to properly use it to identify a plant correctly. Until I heard Barney speak about how to properly identify a plant, I had no idea that there was really a good methodology for identifying plants. (Also, if you want a heavy book to press a flower in, this one would definitely be the choice due to its weight.)

BRIT has one of the largest plant collections in the state, if not in the US. You will find it an amazing place even if the thought of plant collecting does not interest you. BRIT is an herbarium, a place where dried plants are stored and used as a reference when other plants need to be identified. Many specimens are several hundreds of years old. It really is quite fascinating to think about the plant collectors many years ago drying their specimens and to know that we still do the same thing today. Some of those specimens are probably still being used today. I hope you can come to the meeting to learn more about plant collecting and identification techniques.

*Hope to see you Sunday,
Brigette Vinton
Garland Chapter President*



Sideoats Gramma

(*Bouteloua*

Curtipendula)

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

Upcoming Events

Spring Creek Forest Preserve

- **September 21st—Bird and Wildflower Walk** led by Texas Master Naturalist Jim Varnum. This walk will proceed through the Spring Creek Park Preserve prairie to look for fall migrating birds and fall wildflowers. Jim can not only identify the birds and wildflowers, but he can also tell stories to connect them to the natural world. The walk will begin at 6:00 p.m. and last for 90 minutes. 1787 Holford Rd., Garland.

Botanical Research Institute of Texas

- **September 22 and 23—The Pulling Together Initiative: A Texas-sized Partnership to Manage Invasive Plants.** This symposium will feature speaker Damon Waitt, Ph.D., director of the National Plant Network at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Its goal is to determine the scope of the problems caused by invasive plants, raise awareness among the public and government leaders, and identify the most effective actions that should be taken to stop the spread of invasive plants. The Thursday session will be from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Winton Scott Hall, Room 425 at TCU. The Friday session will be from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Learning Center, BRIT, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, Texas. Contact Patty Markensteiner at 817/332-4441 for more information.

Texas Discovery Gardens

- **October 2,3,9,10,16,17, and 23—Larval Marvels: Silk Reeling Demonstrations at the State Fair of Texas.** Learn to identify silkmoths native to Texas and watch a textile artist reel threads of silk from a cocoon.



September Meeting

Sunday, September 18th

at 2:30pm

Meet and greet at 2:15 pm

Come join your fellow members, and bring a friend.

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 our **new address**:

Native Plant Society of Texas

P.O. Box 2762

Georgetown, TX 78627

() *Student*.....\$15.00 () *Senior citizen*...\$15.00

() *Individual*.....\$20.00 () *Family*.....\$25.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____

Chapter Affiliation _____ **GARLAND** _____

New () Renewal () Address Change ()

E-mail Address _____

Minutes of Garland Chapter NPSOT

General Meeting on August 21, 2005



Chapter president Brigette Vinton called the meeting to order.

President Vinton introduced our speaker, Magda Girgis, president of Dallas Organic Gardening Club.

Some points of her presentation: Prior to 1950 all gardening was organic. Texas A & M forbids the Texas Master Naturalist hotline from giving organic answers because they aren't tested. Organics benefits the entire ecosystem, air quality, ground water and wildlife. Organics feed the soil which then produces healthy plants. Synthetics give faster, weaker growth. The biggest difference between a bag of synthetic fertilizer, with high numbers, and a bag of organic fertilizer, with low numbers, is everything in the organic is useful. In the synthetic bag, after the numbers, the remainder is useless salts. You will use less organic fertilizers.

Synthetics wipe out bugs which destroys the eco balance. If a bug appears it is much better to determine if it is a problem or a pest before taking action. If it isn't do nothing. If it is wait to see if a beneficial insect comes to take care of the problem before using an organic pesticide.

Avoid splashing soil onto leaves when watering. When water splashes onto leaves it carries soil born diseases. Mulch is helpful to avoid splashing and also conserves water.

Mowing grass higher creates a stronger root system, shades the roots and allows more photosynthesis to occur. Water deeply less often, 1" per week, 2" in hottest part of summer, all at one time. If you have water runoff stop to allow the water to be absorbed then restart watering. One season of using a mulching mower equals one season of fertilizing. To aerate in our clay use plugs, not spines.

You may want to attend an organic gardening club meeting. The Dallas club meets the 4th Thursday see www.dogc.org. The Lakeside club meets here at Rhodes the 1st Sunday.

Rhodes is an all organic nursery.

Following Madga's presentation we held our door prizes drawing. Butch Simon donated some trees for the drawing. I won a Bur Oak.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonia Messina-Gates, secretary



Native Texas Bulbs

Sources of information: www.wildflower2.org/ and www.tejasnativebulbs.com/



Funnel Flower

Androsiphium coeruleum

An attractive plant on which the white, bluish, or lavender blossoms are partly joined to form a tube. It also has a pleasant, spicy fragrance. It blooms in early spring.



Crow Poison

Nathoscordum bivalve

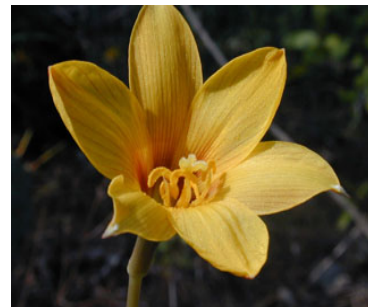
A very early spring flower which looks like wild onion, but with fewer and larger flowers on long stems and no onion odor. Often blooms again in the fall.



Death Camas

Zigadenus Nuttali

This plant has grass-like, basal leaves and a leafless stem rising from an onion-like bulb and bearing a branching cluster of numerous greenish-white, star-like flowers.



Copper Lily

Habranthus tubespantus

This beautiful plant blooms after the rains of late summer and fall with a golden-yellow, solitary, terminal flower. Narrow, thick leaves appear after flower has withered.



Rohde's
Nursery
& Nature Store

*A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HOST GREGORY
AND THE STAFF AT ROHDE'S NURSERY
YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!*

*Visit Rohde's on the Internet at
<http://www.beorganic.com/index.htm>*

*Visit Rohde's at 1615 Wall Street;
Garland, Texas 75041*

From LBJ, go North on Garland Road for two blocks to Leon Road. Turn right and go one block to Wall Street. Turn left onto Wall and you can't miss them! You can also reach Rohde's by phone at (972) 864-1934 or (800) 864-4445. Mapsco 29P.

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For information, or to make comments, contact a member of the leadership team. VIP, please put NPSOT in the e-mail subject line.