

# October 2006 Newsletter

## Native Plant Society of Texas - South Texas Chapter



### Oct. 5th – Monthly Meeting – "Creating Habitat with South Texas Natives"

Our monthly meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Drive, Corpus Christi.

Ernie Edmundson, NPSOT member, Master Gardener, and Master Naturalist, will give a talk on native plants complete with pictures on PowerPoint slides. She is choosing plants that are available from Mike Heep's nursery and will give insight on creating habitat. This will be a good talk for beginners to native plant gardening and may even give older members a few fresh ideas for fall plantings.

### Plant Buying Trip in October

Dawn Dickson is coordinating a plant buying trip for NPSOT members to Mike Heep's Nursery in the Valley. Please return your wish list to her by Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> by fax 361-225-2325 or email [ddickson@stx.rr.com](mailto:ddickson@stx.rr.com). Don't forget to include your phone number and contact information. The trip is planned for the weekend of the 14th or 20th of October. She is welcoming others to make the trip with her. Contact her for more information. Her daytime phone number is 361-225-2124.

The 2006 NPSOT Annual Meeting and Fall Symposium is October 19-22, 2006. This year's meeting will be held in San Antonio with our headquarters at the Marriott Northwest Hotel. The theme is "Convergence and Diversity: Native Plants of South Central Texas." A registration brochure with a description of all the activities and the registration form will be mailed to all members about September 1st. For more information and details on how to reserve your room at the hotel, see the following page on the NPSOT web site.

<http://www.npsot.org/events/FallSymposium2006.htm>

Silent Auction Items - submitted by Larry Maroney [lmaroney@gvvc.com](mailto:lmaroney@gvvc.com) or call 830-743-0187

It's time to start thinking about the Fall Symposium Silent Auction. As most of you know, the proceeds of each year's silent auction are used for grants and education. We are asking each of the 32 chapters in the state to be responsible for the contribution of at least six items for the auction - whether they are donated by chapter members or businesses in the area. Most of the auction items should be valued from \$30.00 to \$50.00 if we are to reach our target for this year's silent auction.

Please describe each donation in detail for display and catalog. If possible, please include a brochure, photograph or informational sheet. Be sure to specify location, if applicable, and any limitations such as availability or excluded items. Thank you to those who contribute to NPSOT's 2006 Fall Symposium Silent Auction! Please call or email us for the information form, then return it to our office.

### The 2007 Garden Council – Garden Tour

The Garden Council will host the annual Garden Tour next year on Saturday April 29, 2007. If you would like to see a particular yard on the Garden Tour, please send the recommendation to Ann Hoch (361) 991-8063 [ann777@grandecom.net](mailto:ann777@grandecom.net)

### Do You Have INFO???

Do you know of an upcoming book release, workshop, lecture, or information that would be of interest to the local NPSOT members? If so, email the information to Shelly Maher at [shelly\\_maher@hotmail.com](mailto:shelly_maher@hotmail.com). If applicable and space permits, it can be included in our monthly newsletter.

## 2006 TACSS Annual Fall Seminar "East Meets West in the Alamo City" – October 7 & 8

East meets West in the Alamo City! Join members of the Texas Association of Cactus and Succulent Societies and be guests for a day of educational and informative lectures, plant sales, and a rare plant auction. In the seminar rediscover the native xerophytes of Texas, explore the diversity of succulent flora from Africa and Madagascar, and learn about survival of desert flora in the Sonoran and Mojave Deserts. This seminar is hosted by the San Antonio Cactus & Xerophyte Society at the Marriott Northwest Hotel. For more information about the meeting please contact Ann Black - Secretary, San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society (SACXS) at Phone: 830-336-4471 or Email: [annblack@gvvc.com](mailto:annblack@gvvc.com)

## Upcoming Events at the Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens and Nature Center (361) 852-2100

[www.cbbotanicalgardens.org](http://www.cbbotanicalgardens.org)

- **Name Change**

In a special announcement September 14<sup>th</sup>, CCBGNC Executive Director Dr. Michael Womack announced the popular visitor destination became the *SOUTH TEXAS Botanical Gardens & Nature Center*.

- **Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>** - Learn how to beat the salt, sand and wind challenges of landscaping in island neighborhoods at the *Island Gardening* seminar, 10 a.m. to noon, at the CCBGNC. Retired horticulture professor Dr. John Fucik gives island gardeners tips on how to work *with* nature's elements; and discusses the many island native plants that combat wind, salt and sand. Seminar fees are \$6, \$3.50 for members, and includes Gardens & Nature Center admission. For seminar registration, call (361) 852-2100.
- **Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>** - The annual *NatureFest & Fall Plant Sale*, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ADMISSION IS **FREE** that day. Members' early shopping is from 8 to 9 a.m. *NatureFest* will feature nature seminars focusing on environmentally-friendly backyard fun; Children's Learning Area, ladybug releases, vehicle emissions program interactive *AutoCheck*, ceremonial tree-planting, and tree-pruning demos. For vendor, volunteer, or membership information, call (361) 852-2100.
- **Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>** - Learn to utilize stand-out herbs in your landscape as well as in culinary adventures and for general good health at the *Herbs--for Kitchen and Landscape* seminar from 10 a.m. to noon. Carol Krank, Texas Certified Nursery Professional from Turner's Gardenland, and a Nueces County Master Gardener, will discuss utilizing stand-out herbs as landscape highlights, tantalizing gourmet additions, and general good-health diet benefits. Seminar fees are \$6, \$3.50 for members, which includes Gardens & Nature Center admission. For registration, call (361) 852-2100.
- **Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>** - Homeowners can learn how to totally remodel their yards or update tired or overgrown landscapes at the *Planning your Landscape Facelift* seminar from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Gardens & Nature Center. Local landscape architect Doug Wade will guide students through design elements, plant selection and placement—with water bills in mind! Participants may bring photos of landscape areas to develop or change. Class fees are \$6, \$3.50 members, and include admission. For reservations, call (361) 852-2100.
- **Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>** - Take a "walk on the wild side" at *Wayne's Nature Walk*, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., beginning at the Visitors Center. During an indoor lecture and outdoor discovery walk, Dr. Wayne Hanselka, Rangeland Specialist with the Texas Cooperative Extension, will guide participants through the fascinating history of the Gardens & Nature Center site, wetland facts and features, and wildlife migrating from the northern tip of nearby King Ranch. Class fees are \$6, \$3.50 members, and include Gardens & Nature Center admission. Call (361) 852-2100 for information or reservations

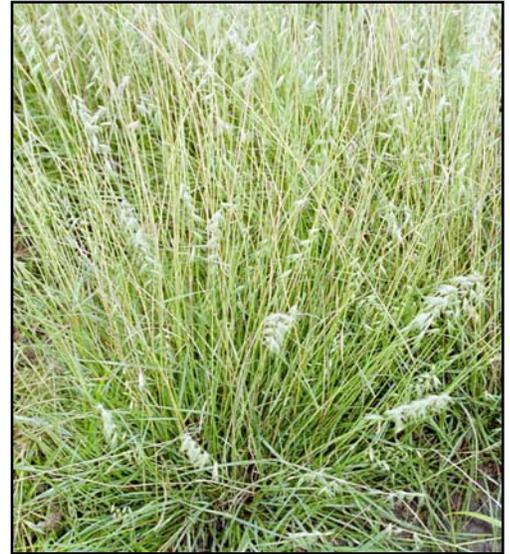
## Want Free Seeds??? Just Come to a Meeting and Give Feedback!!!

When possible, the USDA-NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center in Kingsville will be providing seeds of the plants featured in the "Do You Know Your Natives?" section at the meeting following each newsletter. In return they ask that you agree to fill out a survey of how the species did in your containers, garden, or natural area. The Center is attempting to collect information on how native plants perform in local area gardens.

## “Do You Know Your Natives???” Contributed by: USDA-NRCS

Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center

Slender grama (*Bouteloua repens* [H.B.K.] Scribn. & Merr.), is a native, perennial grass that occurs in dense clusters (Gould, 1975). It grows 20-45 centimeters tall with weak, slender stems. The inflorescence blooms from April to December and consists of stem bearing branches with spikelets. Slender grama is found in open or brushy pastures, road right-of-ways, and along streambanks in the South Texas Plains and lower edge of the Edwards Plateau regions of the State (Gould, 1975). Its range extends from Southern Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona south through Mexico, Central America, and the islands of the Caribbean to Venezuela and Colombia.



Slender grama does best in full sun. Plants are very drought tolerant and produce seedheads throughout most of the growing season. Individual plants can be used for landscaping texture in dry and well-drained areas. This species will frequently reseed itself and spread by seed if not controlled. We recommend cutting back old growth in February to encourage growth.

*South Texas Natives*, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Beeville, and the E. “Kika” De La Garza Plant Materials Center have submitted documentation for a commercial seed release in 2006 of Dilley Germplasm slender grama. This release was selected and tested for use in South Texas. It has excellent seed quality and active germination. Dilley is made up of four selected South Texas collections of slender grama. It has been tested throughout South Texas, showing excellent performance at all locations. This release is recommended for use in roadside plantings, highly disturbed sites, wildlife plantings, conservation reserve plantings, and in rangeland reseeding. The dense foliage and low (<1.5 ft.), spreading growth form will help stabilize soil in highway right of way plantings, and should be helpful in reducing mowing costs.

Info Sources: *The Grasses of Texas* - Gould, 1975 and research performed by *STN* and the *PMC*

### Calendar

- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> – NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – *Creating Habitat with South Texas Natives*
- Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> - *Island Gardening* seminar at the CCBGNC
- Oct. 19-22 - NPSOT Annual Meeting and Fall Symposium in San Antonio
- Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> - *Annual NatureFest & Fall Plant Sale* on CCBGNC grounds
- Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – *Herbs for Kitchen and Landscape* seminar at the CCBGNC
- Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – NO monthly meeting.

### Chapter Contacts

Ann Hoch (President), (361) 991-8063, ann777@grandecom.net

Shelly Maher (Newsletter and Announcements), (361) 584-1486, shelly\_maher@hotmail.com

Carolyn Chancellor (CCBG Native Garden), (361) 749-4461, clchancellor@charter.net

Dr. Alice Hempel, (361) 593-3804, a-hempel@tamuk.edu

Ernie Edmundson, (361) 729-3990, ernie1@hughes.net

State Web Site [www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org)