

April 2007 Newsletter

Native Plant Society of Texas - South Texas Chapter



April 5th – Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker Dr. Alice Hempel

Our monthly meeting will be Thursday, April 5th, 7 p.m. at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Drive, Corpus Christi.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Alice Hempel of Texas A&M University-Kingsville. She will speak on the mint family. Please feel free to come as early as 6:30 p.m. to visit with Ann and other members.

**Our Next Meeting is
May 3rd**

Speaker - T.B.A.

Chapter Updates

Renewed Memberships

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Kay Dillingham of Port Lavaca
Doxie Jackson of Corpus Christi
Marsha Krenek of Fulton
Rebecca Elzner & Dan Jackson of Corpus Christi
Tammy L. White of Corpus Christi
Margaret & Bill Moser of Beeville
Vernon A. Wuensche of Corpus Christi

New Membership

Welcome to our new member.

Karen Sutton of Beeville

NPSOT State Board Meeting – from Phyllis Dolich, President-Elect (president_elect@npsot.org)

The April 21 board meeting in Georgetown will be held at the Sun City Activities Center (Meeting Rooms 3 & 4) which is located across from our Village Center on Texas Drive. Directions to Sun City are on our symposium website at www.npsot.org/symposium2007. We will have a continental breakfast for early arrivals and a sandwich tray luncheon at noon. After the business is completed, we are planning a guided walk along our Tranquility Trail. In 2004 we documented 64 species of wildflowers along this 1.2 mile trail which crosses Berry Creek and continues up on a ridge with a great view of the countryside. It's one of those rare places that hasn't been destroyed by development and overgrazed by cattle & deer. We'll have a couple of master naturalists leading it.

On the way back to I-35 those who are interested can stop at Gardener's Paradise on Williams Drive for their Earth Day celebration. The Williamson County chapter will have a booth there. This is a very nice nursery that specializes in native plants....a nice treat before heading home.

"Thank You" to The Corpus Christi Spring Home and Garden Expo

This group contacted Ann and offered our chapter of the NPSOT a free space at the Expo, Feb 16, 17, and 18. Ann set up the board with the logo and the two tri-fold displays. She reported that many membership flyers, the 1994 report of the symposium held in Corpus Christi ("The Gulf Prairies and Marshes and Its Many Ecosystems"), as well as back issues of the NPSOT magazine were taken.

As a side note, there are still several copies of the 1994 Symposium issue if newer members do not have one and are interested. Just contact Ann to get a copy.

Symphony in Bloom - from Ann Hoch

Symphony in Bloom is the title of the Saturday, April 28, 2007 Flower Show presented by the Corpus Christi Area Garden Council, Inc. As a member of the Garden Council, our NPSOT chapter will be helping to present Symphony in Bloom.

Symphony in Bloom will have the following events:

- Flower Show 1 – 5 p.m. to view plants and exhibits which were judged earlier in the day (no fee to attend this event)
- Raffle of donated items – held at the Charles Kaffie home, 2717 Ocean Drive (raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the Kaffie home)
- Garden Tour of 5 homes, and also the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center - 1 – 6 p.m. \$10 ticket includes entry to all 6 stops. The \$10 ticket will also get people into the Botanical Gardens the week following the Tour. (closed on Mondays)
- Plant Sale, Garden Book Sale and Refreshments - at the Garden Greely Center, 1 – 5 p.m.

Our responsibilities are:

- Donation of raffle items (Please donate – our NPSOT chapter needs to donate a few more items.)
- Entries in the Flower Show for judging (The 2006 Garden Show lacked two tables worth of entries.) We have been asked to contribute personal plants to the “Flower Show” - potted plants or cut flowers. Let’s enter and show off some native plants – see details elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Selling of tickets from about 12 noon to 5 p.m. for the Garden Tour. Ann needs a total of four members, so that those selling tickets can take turns making the Garden Tour. Please volunteer – we only need two more helpers.
- Pre-sell ten (10) tickets @ \$10 each – Ann will have the tickets at our April 5 meeting.

Instructions for the Flower Show:

- Potted plants – Bring to the Garden Senior Center between 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Friday, April 27. If that is not convenient, Ann lives very close to the Center. Call Ann at 991-8063 to make other arrangements.
- Design and Special Exhibits placed 1 – 4 p.m., Friday, April 27 (Contact the Garden Council or Ann prior to April 25 to enter this portion of the Flower Show)
- Cut flowers - Bring to the Garden Senior Center between 8 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 28

Rules and Regulations - Ann has a copy of the rules and regulations for entering the Flower Show. She will bring that copy to the Thursday, April 5 NPSOT Chapter meeting. If you want information before or after the April 5 meeting, contact Ann at 991-8063. Gardeners will be at the Center during the designated delivery times to help complete each required Exhibitor’s Tag.

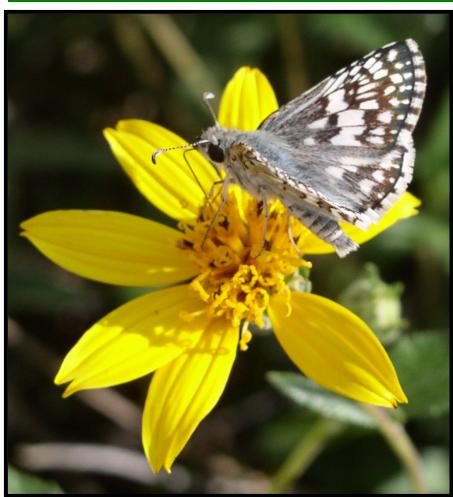
C.C. Area Garden Council Programs

- April 17th 6:30 p.m. Meg Goodman of Texas Parks and Wildlife will present “Bats, Habits & Habitats.” Bring a covered dish to share. The meeting will be held at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Drive, Corpus Christi.

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 If applicable and space permits, it can be included in our monthly newsletter.

"Do You Know Your Natives???"



Contributed by: USDA-NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center
Orange zexmenia is a native perennial wildflower of the Asteraceae or Sunflower Family. It is also known by the common name hairy wedelia and has been known by several scientific names over the past few years: *Zexmenia hispida*, *Wedelia hispida*, and currently *Wedelia texana* (Gray) B.L. Turner. It occurs in Texas, mostly from Central to South Texas, and its range continues into Mexico. It grows up to 60 cm tall, usually in a mound form. It can occur as a woody forb or small shrub. It flowers from March to December depending on the area. Its solitary, yellow-orange flowers are 2-3 cm across and produce achenes. The flowers attract a number of butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Orange zexmenia has lanceolate leaves that are covered with small hairs. These hairs can cause a mild, temporary rash on some people. The plants are eaten by cattle, deer, sheep, and goats. It grows on various soils in pastures and woods, but is susceptible to cotton root rot on heavy clay soils. When growing in clay,

individual plants may live only 2-3 years, but it will reseed. Orange zexmenia can grow in full sun or part shade. According to Geyata Ajilvsgi, it is easily cultivated and makes a good addition to native gardens.

The E. "Kika" De La Garza Plant Materials Center and *South Texas Natives* are currently working on a seed release of orange zexmenia for next year. It will contain 8 collections from throughout South Texas, including two accessions that appear to have some resistance to root rot.

Info Sources: *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas* - Correll and Johnston; *Plants of the Texas Coastal Bend* - Lehman, O'Brien, & White; *Field Guide to the Broad-Leaved Herbaceous Plants of South Texas* – Everitt, Drawe, & Lonard; *Wildflowers of Texas* – Geyata Ajilvagi; and research performed at the PMC.



Upcoming Events (361) 852-2100 www.ccbotanicalgardens.org

- April 7th – A “**Bromeliad Basics**” seminar will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. Members of the Corpus Christi Bromeliad Society will teach secrets of growing these tropical epiphytes which bring exotic beauty to homes and patios. Class fees are \$6, \$3.50 members, and include Gardens & Nature Center admission. For reservations, call 361/852-2100.
- April 21st - **Creating Backyard Habitat with Native Plants**, from 10 a.m. to noon. Master Gardener/Master Naturalist Ernie Edmunson will show students how to transform their backyards into lush, colorful habitats for birds and butterflies by landscaping with South Texas native plants. Seminar fees are \$6, \$3.50 members, and include admission. For reservations, call 361/852-2100.
- April 28th - **A Songbird Migration Fieldtrip** will be hosted by the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 28, beginning at the Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples. Local birding enthusiasts will help participants identify by sight and sound favorite neotropical songbirds during their migration through South Texas. The class will carpool to three other birding hot spots near Corpus Christi after an introductory session at the Gardens & Nature Center. Fees for the day are \$15, \$12 for members, and include Gardens & Nature Center admission, and continental breakfast. Participants should bring a lunch. For reservations or further information, call 361/852-2100.
- May 5th - Free **PROJECT LEARNING TREE** One-Day Teacher Short Course. The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, in partnership with AEP Texas, offers a free Project Learning Tree one-day short course for elementary science and social studies teachers, kindergarten through eighth grades, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 5, at the Gardens & Nature Center. Teacher tuition is underwritten by AEP. Instructor is STBGNC Executive Director, Michael Womack, Ed.D. Pre-registration is required.

- May 12th - "Bonsai for Beginners Workshop," with bonsai specialist Yvonne Padilla, of the Corpus Christi Area Garden Council, from 10 a.m. to noon. Full workshop participants will create and take home a completed 15-inch containerized bonsai. Workshop students will need to bring plant clipping scissors and small wire cutters. Full workshop fees are \$29, \$27 members; and observation-only fees are \$6, \$3.50 members. All fees include Gardens & Nature Center admission. Workshop maximum is 12. Students must prepay registration by May 8, at the Visitors Center.

Spring Plant Sale and Gardening Festival at LBJ Wildflower Center

Members' Only Preview Sale - Friday, April 13, 1 to 7 p.m. and Public Sale - Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. See their website for more information www.wildflower.org

Calendar

- April 5th - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker Dr. Alice Hempel
- May 3rd - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **No Summer Meetings!!!**
- Sept. 6th - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.

Chapter Contacts

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State Web Site www.npsot.org