

# May 2007 Newsletter

## Native Plant Society of Texas - South Texas Chapter



### May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker Michael Womack

Our monthly meeting will be Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 p.m. at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Drive, Corpus Christi.

Michael Womack will speak on "How to raise wildflowers in an urban yard, without replanting each year." Members will be invited to share their stories of successes and failures. Feel free to come as early as 6:30 p.m. to visit with Ann and other members.

**Our Next Meeting is  
September 6th**

Have a fun summer!!!

### Chapter Updates

#### New Membership

Welcome to our new member.

Karen & Robert Benson of Normanna

#### Renewed Memberships

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Paula Maywald of Kingsville  
Karen S. Easton of Corpus Christi  
Carolyn Chancellor of Port Aransas

### Order Grasses for the Fall A.S.A.P!!!! from Ernie Edmundson

If you would like to buy grasses from John Snowden of Bluestem Nursery, you will need to request them very soon. This will allow John time to grow the plants to bring with him this fall when he comes to give a talk. He said that he would prefer to not bring many more grasses than are ordered, so pre-orders are strongly encouraged. NPSOT members will get a discount. They can go to his website ([www.bluestemnursery.com](http://www.bluestemnursery.com)) to see all of the grasses to decide what they want. Then email the requests to [ernie1@hughes.net](mailto:ernie1@hughes.net)

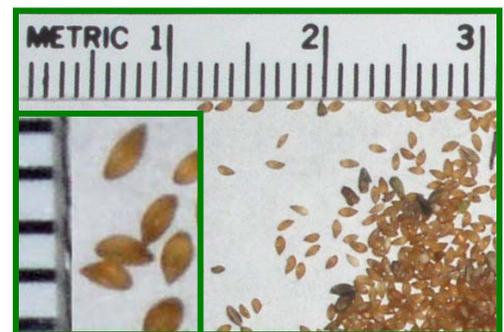
### “Do You Know Your Natives???” Contributed by: USDA-NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center

Hooded windmillgrass (*Chloris cucullata* Bisch.) is a native, perennial bunchgrass with a mature foliage height ranging from 0.5 to 1 foot. It is often stoloniferous, which means it spreads by above-ground stems. It produces seed heads from May through October. Hooded windmillgrass can be found on prairies on sandy or gravelly soils, and occasionally on clayey soils. It is also common in pastures, along roadsides, in lawns, parks, and waste areas. It is native throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico and the northeast portion of Mexico. In Texas, hooded windmillgrass is most abundant in the Rio Grande Plains, although it can be found throughout most of the state. It is rarest in the western plains, Trans-Pecos region, eastern, and southeastern Texas. Hooded windmillgrass has been known to hybridize with other chloris species, particularly *Chloris verticillata*. Hybridization has been most common in the Rio Grande Plains, and the hybrids been given the name *Chloris subdolichostachya*. Hitchcock (1971, p.529) provides some excellent illustrations that may assist in differentiation of the species. The windmillgrasses provide fair quality forage for livestock and tend to increase with heavy grazing.



In 2006, Mariah Germplasm hooded windmillgrass was released to the commercial seed trade. It was a cooperative release between the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Program, *South*

*Texas Natives*, and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Beeville. The collection was made in Kenedy County, Texas. Mariah Germplasm is recommended for use in roadside plantings, critical site revegetation, and



rangeland seed mixes. It can be used in many types of conservation plantings, such as grassed waterways, riparian buffers, filter strips, and pond embankments. Mariah Germplasm should not be burned.

Info Sources: *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas* - Correll and Johnston; *The Grasses of Texas* - Gould, 1975; *Grasses of the Texas Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes* - Hutch, Schuster & Drawe, 1999; and research performed at the PMC

### Teacher Requests Help Planting a Native Garden from Rick Pratt

A teacher is starting a native plant garden at the Port Aransas Middle School. She is requesting help with both plants and expertise. The area begins getting sun in the mid afternoon and goes on through the afternoon until about 2 p.m. If you can help in any way, please contact her.

Kate Prejean (msbrowns@hotmail.com)  
361-332-1506 cell 361-749-1200 ext 322 work



Upcoming Events (361) 852-2100 [www.ccbotanicalgardens.org](http://www.ccbotanicalgardens.org)

- May 5<sup>th</sup> - Free **PROJECT LEARNING TREE** One-Day Teacher Short Course for elementary science and social studies teachers, K thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 5, at the Gardens & Nature Center. Instructor is STBGNC Executive Director, Michael Womack, Ed.D. Pre-registration is required.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> - "**Bonsai for Beginners Workshop**," with bonsai specialist Yvonne Padilla, of the Corpus Christi Area Garden Council, from 10 a.m. to noon. Workshop maximum is 12. Students must prepay registration by May 8.

### NPSOT Calendar

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker Michael Womack
- **No Summer Meetings!!!**
- Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.

### Chapter Contacts

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