

May 2008 Newsletter

Native Plant Society of Texas - South Texas Chapter



May 1st – Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker – Everyone!

Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Drive, Corpus Christi.

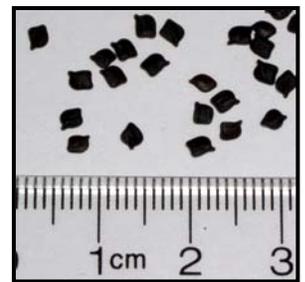
May's meeting will be an open floor discussion about native plants. Everyone will have a chance to discuss the successes and failures experienced over the past year. Have a plant you need identified? Bring a sample. Have a plant book you have found useful? Bring it to share. Have pretty pictures of your native garden? Bring them to show off. We need those with question and those with answers for a fun chat!

Our Next Meeting is
September 4th
Have a Fun Summer!

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



Partridge pea or prairie senna [*Chaemaecrista fasciculata* (Michaux) Greene] is an annual member of the Fabaceae family (Lehman, O'Brien, and White, 2005). It is mainly found in sandy soils of open woods and fields in the eastern and central portions of the state. Its range extends into much of the Eastern United States (Correll and Johnston, 1996).



It grows to 20-90 cm. tall, with pinnate leaves (Lehman, O'Brien, and White, 2005). The yellow flowers are solitary or paired and bloom from June to December (Lehman, O'Brien, and White, 2005). The fruits are a flattened bean, dark brown to black when mature. The pods split open to release the seeds when dry. The seeds of this species are eaten by bobwhite quail, and white-tailed deer occasionally eat the leaves (Everitt, Drawe, and Lonard, 1999).

Partridge pea is commonly available in the commercial seed trade, but the PMC is working on releasing a native ecotype from South Texas for the conservation practices of 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management and 550 Range Planting. If you find a population of partridge pea in South Texas, the PMC would appreciate a seed collection.



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

- **PROJECT LEARNING TREE - May 10th** - A one-day short course for elementary science and social studies teachers. Teachers from any area school district may enroll. Class size is limited to 20. Pre-registration is required. Call for information. Teacher Tuition Underwritten by AEP Texas. (The course also will be offered July 2 and September 6.)
- **Junior Master Gardener Program - June 7 through July 19** - The seven Saturday afternoon sessions run from 1 to 3 p.m. for children who have completed grades 1-6. The JMG course is an international youth gardening program operated nationwide through the Extension network. Class max is 18. Prepaid registration of \$30 is due by May 29.
- **Wilderness Experience Camp** - Children ages 7-9 may attend the June 10-13 or July 8-11 session. The session for ages 10-12 will be held June 24-27. Camp hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. It introduces campers to new pathways of discovery, and secrets of the wilderness and its ecological conservation—through fun, hands-on segments like wildlife study, endangered species, wetlands, native plants, plant propagation, water fowl, and nature arts and crafts. Tuition is \$85 (\$70 Gardens & Nature Center members). Some segments will be outdoors. Kids will need a sack lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat! Camp registration must be prepaid. Class size is limited to 20 each session.

NPSOT Calendar Fall 2007- Spring 2008

- **May 1st** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **June – August – No meetings.** Have a fun summer!
- **Sept. 4th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.

Chapter Contacts

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State Web Site www.npsot.org