

November 2008 Newsletter

Native Plant Society of Texas - South Texas Chapter



Nov. 6th – Monthly Meeting – Guest Speakers – "Native Dave" and Christy Ilfrey

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

"Native Dave" and Christy Ilfrey will present "Sustainable Landscapes for Texas", a program about designing and implementing a landscape that, once established, thrives on ambient rainfall with only supplemental irrigation, reduces maintenance tasks, and reflects local natural beauty. David – a 7th-generation Texan – completed the prestigious Longwood Gardens Professional Gardener training program and earned the BS in environmental studies at Texas State University at San Marcos. Christy (a transplant!) completed the BA in English from the same university. She is a writer and speaker. Their mission is to inspire positive changes in their community by way of design and consultation services, writing projects and speaking engagements. Although "rebellious by Nature", the Ilfreys have received several awards and accolades for their commitment to conserve, preserve, restore and celebrate Texas' natural resources.

Our Next Meeting is December 4th

Speaker – Dr. Alice Hempel
South Texas Ambrosia: The Endangered Weed

Renewed Memberships

Ellen Reisinger of Rockport

SOUTH TEXAS WILDLIFE & BIRDING FESTIVAL



South Texas Wildlife and Birding Festival November 20-23, 2008

The Kingsville area is in several major migratory paths and has documented well over 450 species of birds. Tours for bird & wildlife watching will be available on King, Kenedy, and La Copita Ranches. There will also be a photography seminar, a stargazing tour, and an overnight stay at La Copita Ranch. Free nature-related seminars will be offered daily. A variety of children's crafts, exhibits, and activities will be available each day including: Texas A&M-Kingsville Anglers, Texas State Zoo native animal exhibit, Valley Nature Center live butterflies and caterpillars display, and the "Last Chance Forever" Birds of Prey show. Shop the "Nature Marketplace" for great gifts and items needed to begin your new hobby of watching nature at its best. The event will take place at the Community Life Center 123 N. 5th Street in Kingsville from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thurs. –Sat., with tours available on Sunday. See <http://www.kingsvillebirdingfest.com/> for registration form and schedule of events.

October "Garden Council Yard of the Month"

The Native Plant Society chose the yard of Frankie & T. J. Fox of Rockport as yard of the month for October. The yard is a small one that lies between the street and the house, which fronts on Copano Bay. The location poses unique challenges to any landscaper. Nonetheless, the yard is always lovely and a great draw for hummingbirds and butterflies. The plants are almost entirely native and include: esperanza, frogfruit, coral honeysuckle, Turks cap, red yucca, spider lily, fragrant mistflower, Copper Canyon daisy, Texas mountain laurel, dwarf Barbados, prostrate rosemary, cape honeysuckle, yellow sophora, fig, butterfly weed, whitebrush, spiny hackberry, and colima.

We Need Speakers for 2009

We need your help for ideas! We need speakers for all meetings in 2009! Do you know of someone to contact that would give a talk appropriate for our group? Is there an area you are knowledgeable about that you would like to share? Do you have an idea for a talk that you would like to hear? Let us know.

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



Low prairie clover [*Dalea scandens* (P. Mill.) Clausen] is a native perennial member of the legume family. It is a subshrub that reaches about 1 m in height. It flowers from September to December and reproduces by seed. The pinnate leaves have leaflets 6-12 cm in length. The small flowers occur on short spikes, with petals up to 6 mm. long that start out yellowish and turn to a light violet. The fruit is a single seeded pod. Low prairie clover occurs in loamy soils in openings or around brush and is known from east of Calallen, west of Portland, and extreme south Texas. It is easily identified as it has no thorns and crushing green leaves will turn your hand yellow. It makes a nice low maintenance addition to a native garden.



The PMC is working on releasing a native ecotype of low prairie clover for the conservation practices of 512

Pasture & Hayland Planting, 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, and 550 Range Planting. However, more collections are needed to represent the entire range of this species in South Texas. If you find a population of low prairie clover 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; and research performed at the PMC.



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

- **Bromeliad Basics seminar Nov. 1** - A seminar, “Bromeliad Basics”, 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 fee is \$6 (\$3.50 members). Call for reservations.
- **‘Sex in the Garden’ Nov. 8** - Master Gardener and daylily breeder Phyllis DeVries shares some of her daylily hybridizing successes, during a ‘Sex in the Garden’ seminar, from 10 am to noon. DeVries will provide insights on purchasing, planting and maximizing bloom potential for these low-care perennials that make great additions to your landscape. Seminar fee is \$6 (\$3.50 members). Call for reservations.
- **Putting Plumeria to Bed! Nov. 15** - The Plumeria Society of South Texas will show plumeria enthusiasts how to get their plants ready for winter’s potential cold snaps, from 10 to noon. Gardens & Nature Center Plumeria curator Frank Eicholz will explain the whys, whens, wheres and hows of plumeria hibernation dormancy. Class fee is \$6 (\$3.50 members). Call for reservations.
- **Kristie Kringle’s Garden Shoppe Open House Dec. 6 and 7.** New and unique gifts, tasty refreshments, and SANTA, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is open to the public. Visitors Center admission is free!

2008 Dates from the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation (www.baysfoundation.org) 361-882-3439

- **Nov. 6th - 6th Annual Conservation & Environmental Stewardship Awards Program.** Texas State Aquarium. Call 361-882-3439 for tickets.
- **Nov. 10th - 5:30pm. Coastal Issues Forum.** TAMUCC, NRC Room 1003. Free and Open to the public. Carbon dioxide creation and reduction in the Coastal Bend. Invited representatives include: Topaz Power Group (The New Barney Davis Energy Center and The New Nueces Bay Energy Center), NuCoastal Power (Lon C Hill power plant), and AgriLife researchers working on the use of algae and waste heat as tools for carbon dioxide reduction.

NPSOT Calendar Fall 2007- Spring 2008

- **Nov. 6th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – "Native Dave" and Christy Ilfrey - "Sustainable Landscapes for Texas"
- **Dec. 4th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Dr. Alice Hempel - South Texas Ambrosia: The Endangered Weed
- **Jan. – meeting in December and not January this year**
- **Feb. 5th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **March 5th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **April 2nd** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **May 7th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.

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