The Native Plant Project Annual Election will be held at the January meeting.

Five Directors will be elected.
Nominees for Director are:

James Chapman
James Everitt
John Fucik
Nancy Gilbertson
William MacWhorter

At the next meeting of the Board of Directors, the Directors will elect officers from their membership.

Officer nominees are:

Vice President, James Chapman
Secretary, Joe Ideker
Treasurer, DeWayne Hodges

The President-Elect, Joseph Chance, will assume the presidency.

The Native Plant Project extends its appreciation and thanks to the outgoing directors, Charles Tucker and Michael Heep, and president, Gary Waggerman, for their volunteered services. Chapman, Everitt, Fucik, Tucker, and Waggerman were among the twelve foresighted individuals who founded the Native Plant Project and served as its first Board of Directors.

ALL DUES-PAYING MEMBERS, PLEASE ATTEND AND VOTE.

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RIO GRANDE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY NATIVE PLANT COMPETITION

Gladys Schumacher Donohue

I was fascinated to hear the RGVAS members were to have a contest as to how many native plants grow in their yards. I went right out and counted mine. I counted 47 native species, all planted by birds, wind, or water (floods), either in flower or vegetable. Many naturalized plants, as familiar and abundant as many native species, are also present. The fact that we never mow (my son uses the swing bar, so he can be selective) accounts for such a wide variety of trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants. Here is the list, with scientific names followed by common name.

1. Acacia smallii (Texas huisache) 26. Ipomoea trichocarpa (Cotton Morning Glory)
2. Aloysia macrostachya (Woolly Beebrush) 27. Lepidium virginicum (Peppergrass)
3. Ambrosia psilostachya (Western Ragweed) 28. Leucophyllum frutescens (Cenizo)
4. Argemone aneae (Yellow Prickly-popp) 29. Malva parviflora (Cheeses)
5. Argemone sanguinea (Pink Prickly-popp) 30. Malvastrum americanum (Malva loca)
6. Aster subulatus (Devil-weed Aster) 31. Melothria pendula (Meloncito)
7. Baccharis neglecta (Seepwillow) 32. Nicotiana repanda (White tobacco)
8. Calyptocarpus vialis (Hierba de caballo) 33. Opuntia linheimeri (Nopal Pr. Pear)
9. Celtis laevigata (Hackberry, Sugarberry) 34. Parkinsonia aculeata (Retama -- National Champion Tree
10. Celtis pallida (Spiny Hackberry) 35. Parthenium hysterophorus (False Ragweed)
11. Cirsiurn texanum (Texas Thistle) 36. Prosopis glandulosa (Honey Mesquite)
12. Cissus incisa (Possum-grape) 37. Ratibida columnaris (Mexican Hat)
13. Clematis drummondii (Old Man's Beard) 38. Rivina humilis (Pigeonberry)
14. Cocculus diversifolia (Snailseed) 39. Ruellia drummondiana (PrairiePetunia)
15. Cordalia hookeri (Brazil) 40. Sida physocallyx (Spear-leaf Sida)
16. Conyza canadensis (Horseweed) 41. Solanum trilobatum (Texas nightshade)
17. Ehretia anacua (Anauca) 42. Verbena bipinnatifida (Prairie Verbena)
18. Eupatorium odoratum (Blue mistflower) 43. Verbena pumila (Pink Vervain)
19. Euphorbia hypericifolia (Tropical Eup.) 44. Verbena halei (Slender Vervain)
20. Euphorbia serpena (Colondrina, Mat E.) 45. Verbesina enceliodes (Golden Crownbeard)
21. Gaara odorata (Wild honeysuckle) 46. Zanthoxylum fagara (Colima)
22. Gaura parviflora (Velvet Gaura) 47. Smilax bona-nox (Greenbriar)
The Sabal 4(1):3

NATIVE PLANT PROJECT
Meeting Announcement

Date: Friday, 16, January 1987
Time: 1930 (7:30 PM)
Place: Mid-Valley Bank Community Room, 500 S. Missouri, Weslaco
Agenda: (1) Native Plant Project Board of Directors meeting at 1830 (6:30 PM)
(2) Native Plant Project general meeting at 1930 (7:30 PM).
(3) Native Plant Project annual election.
Program: Steve Walker, Outdoors Reporter for Channel 4, will show a video. The complete program has not yet been finalized at press time.

Secretary
Native Plant Project

David’s Milkberry
Chiococca alba (L.) Hitchc.
Rubiaceae (Madder Family)

FIELD IDENTIFICATION. Erect, spreading, or reclining shrub.

FLOWERS. Born in slender, axillary racemes or panicles 1½-4 in. long; pedicels ¼-½ in. long; hypanthium ¼-½ in. long; corolla white or yellow, ¼-½ in. long, short-funnelform, the 5 short lobes ovate to lanceolate and spreading to reflexed; stamens 5, free from corolla-tube, united around base of style, anthers linear; styles united, elongate, filiform, exserted, ovary 2-3-celled, disk cushion-like; calyx persistent, 5-lobed, lobes ovate or triangular and shorter than the tube.

FRUIT. Drupe white, subglobose, flattened, leathery, about ¼ in. in diameter; carpels 2, each 1-seeded, endosperm fleshy.

LEAVES. Opposite, 1-2½ in. long, lanceolate to elliptic or ovate, margin entire, apex acute or short-acuminate, base acute, texture leathery, surfaces glabrous and lustrous or somewhat pubescent beneath; petioles ¼-½ in. long, stipules persistent.

RANGE. Southwestern Texas, Mexico, Florida, West Indies, and tropical South America. In Mexico in Baja California, Sonora, Tamaulipas, Veracruz, Yucatán, and Chiapas. In Texas in the lower Rio Grande Valley area in Cameron County, where it is difficult to ascertain whether it is native or an escape from cultivation.

MEDICINAL USES. Formerly much used in Central and tropical South America and Europe as a medicine, being considered especially efficacious in the treatment of dropsy, venereal disease, and rheumatism. Poultices were also made from the leaves. The drug is used as a diuretic and purgative.

“Cahina” is an emeto-cathartic capable of producing serious gastro-intestinal irritation. In Brazil it has long been used by the natives as a remedy for the bites of serpents, also in rheumatism and in dropsy. Dose, of the powdered bark, from twenty grains to a drachm (1.3-3.9 Gm.). For further information see U. S. Dispensatory 20th ed., p. 1295.”

David’s Milkberry is considered threatened in the lower Rio Grande Valley by the Native Plant Project because, in these United States, it is only known from the Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary (The Sabal 3(4):7, May 1986).

REMARKS. The genus name, Chiococca, is derived from the words Chio ("snow") and coca ("seed"), referring to the white drupe. The species name, alba, also means "white." It is occasionally listed in the literature under the name of C. racemosa.

The plant is an attractive shrub and could be more extensively cultivated.
In its first session, the 99th Congress drafted a blueprint for substantial environmental reform in many areas. When it adjourned Oct. 18, the 99th proved it could build on that plan.

Major legislation introduced during the first session indicated that members of Congress planned to renew and strengthen many of this country's environmental protection policies. In the second session, lawmakers acted on those bills, reauthorizing Superfund, the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, as well as passing a massive water resources program and a smorgasbord of other bills designed to protect and enhance our environment.

In contrast, during the first session only one piece of major environmental legislation was passed: the 1985 Farm Bill which contained several soil and wetland conservation measures.

Conservationists are more than happy with the 99th's performance, despite the slow start. "Many people are calling this the environmental Congress' since so many good bills were passed," said Sharon Newsome, director of legislative affairs for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). "We did very well."

There were failures, however. Congress did not reform the country's pesticides law or reauthorize the Endangered Species Act. But overall, say conservation lobbyists, the environmental accomplishments of the 99th Congress outweigh the number of natural-resource-related bills not approved.

**Tallgrass Prairie**

Efforts by the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation, NWF and other conservation groups to have 50,000 acres of tallgrass prairie in northeastern Oklahoma named as a national tallgrass prairie preserve failed because no legislation for the project was introduced in Congress.

In order for the preserve to be created, Congress would have had to pass legislation establishing boundaries and authorizing purchase of the land.

**Endangered Species Waiting**

Congress failed to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act, despite positive action by the House.

The House approved H.R. 1027, which would have reauthorized the Endangered Species Act for three years, earmarking $46.1 million for FY 1987 and $53.6 million for FY 1988. Other provisions included increased protection of candidate species and the establishment of an experimental sea otter population in California. This last provision was removed from the Endangered Species Act and passed as an amendment to the Wetlands Loan Act.

The Senate bill (S. 725) reported by the Senate Environment Committee would have extended the Endangered Species Act through FY 1988, providing $48.4 million for FY 1987 and $55.3 million for FY 1988. However, a hold was placed on the bill by several senators who wanted certain water projects to be exempted from requirements of the Act and provisions added that could have potentially harmed recovery of grizzly bears, gray wolves and other predators.

The Senate failed to take action on its bill. However, the Office of Endangered Species still maintains its authority. Funding is provided for the Act in the continuing resolution for FY 1987 appropriations.

**Emergency Wetlands Resource Act**

Congress passed the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 to establish new funding for wetlands acquisition and not require payment of the 1961 Wetlands Loan Act, which President Reagan later signed.

The bill (S. 740) provides more funds for wetlands acquisition by increasing duck stamp fees and establishing entrance fees at selected National Wildlife Refuges.

In addition, the legislation creates the Bayou Sauvage Urban Wildlife Refuge near New Orleans, La.

**Biodiversity Bills**

In early October, two bills addressing tropical forest destruction and the loss of biological diversity were passed by Congress as a part of the Child Survival Act. They were signed Oct. 24 by President Reagan.

The Tropical Rain Forest Protection Act prohibits U.S. Agency for International Development funding of certain kinds of projects destroying or degrading pristine tropical forests.

The Biological Diversity Act requires that the U.S. Agency for International Development fund at least $2.5 million in biological diversity projects such as resource inventory and reserve protection in FY 1987.

**RAMSAR Treaty**

After 11 years, Congress ratified the RAMSAR Treaty, an international agreement designed to preserve important marshes, fens, bogs and other types of wetlands worldwide.

As a result, four wildlife refuges in the United States—Georgia's Okefenokee, Nevada's Ash Meadows, New Jersey's Brigantine and Alaska's Izembek—will be named to a "List of Wetlands of International Importance."

Almost two dozen countries, including Great Britain, Australia, the U.S.S.R. and West Germany, have signed the RAMSAR agreement, which takes its name from the city in Iran where it was originally signed.

**Federal 'Land Swap'**

Congress has permanently stopped the proposed 25-million-acre land exchange between the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management by prohibiting the two agencies to spend money on the proposal. The prohibition is contained in the continuing resolution for FY 1987 appropriations.
AUDUBON SABAL PALM GROVE SANCTUARY

Frontera Audubon Society's next field trip will be to the Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary. Before land clearing began, a subtropical plant community dominated by palms covered about 40,000 acres along the lower reaches of the Rio Grande (Bletsch 1983). The Texas Sabal Palm (Sabal texana) occurs today from Cameron County (Texas, USA) to San Luis Potosí and Veracruz states (México) (Davis 1942).

Continued survival of a natural Sabal texana community in the United States was threatened until the National Audubon Society acquired 172 acres in the Southmost bend of the Rio Grande in 1971, known as the Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary (Bletsch 1983). Only 32 acres of this sanctuary consists of palm jungle, the rest is old, agricultural fields gradually being revegetated to palm bosquete. With the aid of the Texas Nature Conservancy, the Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge acquired 365 acres adjacent to this sanctuary in 1981 and called it Boscaje de la Palma (Grove of the Palm, or Palm Grove) (USFWS 1983). Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge also endeavors to revegetate the old field portions of its tract to palm jungle.

Although dominated by the conspicuous Texas Sabal Palm, these palm groves deserve attention and preservation also because of the presence within of rare, unusual, and endangered plants and wildlife. Palmer's Bloodleaf (Iresine palmeri) and David's Milkberry (Chiococca alba) (See meeting announcement page in The Sabal 4(1), January 1987) may no longer survive in Texas outside these palm groves (Bletsch 1983). These minute palm grove remnants continue to support populations of peripheral, threatened, and endangered species -- both plant and animal (Idekew 1984-85).

Rusty Griest, current manager of the Sanctuary, will lead the field trip on Saturday, 17 January 1987. Participants will meet at the Sanctuary's Visitors' Center at 0900 (9 am). Remember the entrance fee is $2.00 per adult. We may get to meet Rusty's supervisor also. David Blankenship's position has been divided into two. David concentrates on research and Jesse Grantham is now the manager over all of National Audubon Society's Texas Sanctuaries. Jesse and
Rusty look forward to any input members can make into the development of an accurate Sanctuary bird list. Jesse also solicits comments and advice on the Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary from Frontera Audubon Society members (Jesse Grantham, NAS, 518 Bronte, Rockport, TX 78382, 512-729-3532).

The Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary is open to visitors through 4 May 1987 (when it will close for the Summer), on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays, from 8 AM to 5 PM. Admission is $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for students, with a maximum charge of $8.00 per family. Further information can be obtained from the Sanctuary at 512-541-8034 or P.O. Box 5052, Brownsville, TX 78523-5052.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


VALLEY LAND PROTECTION FUND ACHIEVES FIRST GOAL

John and Audrey Martin

The Frontera Audubon Society-Valley Land Protection Fund has passed its first goal. The $10,000 in donations needed to acquire the threatened tract of wildlife habitat on Lake Llano Grande was collected. The committee members closed with the property owners on 29 December 1986. Frontera Audubon Society now owns a small piece of native habitat. NPP members should remember the Native Plant Project contributed $500 to the fund.

The couple hundred dollars remaining after closing costs will be the base for continuing this perpetual fund. Additional donations will be appreciated. Make checks payable to FAS-Valley Land Protection Fund and mail to FAS, P.O. Box 8124, Weslaco, TX 78596. Some pledges remain to be collected. As other tracts needing protection are identified, the fund will continue to be used for that purpose. If you know of other small tracts of habitat which need preservation, wish to make pledges, or desire further information contact John or Audrey Martin, 687-7211, Steve Bentsen, 686-3765, or Gloria Panzer, 968-4526.

The Valley Land Preservation Fund is a non-profit organization formed to identify and attempt to protect those unique natural areas that because of size or location are not within the current parameters of land acquisition programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
NATIVE PLANT PROJECT
Board of Directors Minutes
12 December 1986

The Board of Directors of the Native Plant Project met in the community room of
the Mid-Valley Bank on Friday, 12 December 1986, at 1830; eight (8) directors
(Joe Chance, Jim Chapman, Mike Heep, DeWayne Hodges, Joe Ideker, Jean Anne
Pearcy, A. Clayton Scribner, and Lynette Scribner) and six (6) members (C.O.
Foerester, Bill MacWhorter, Richard Pearcy, Donna and Vernon Stolberg, and
Bert Wessling) attended.

The secretary called the meeting to order at 1840. Portions of the meeting
were repeated on the arrival of a quorum and the minutes follow the agenda.

A.C. SCRIBNER, MOVED, L. SCRIBNER SECONDED, THE MINUTES BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED;
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer Hodges distributed copies of his report. A.C. SCRIBNER, MOVED, L.
SCRIBNER SECONDED, THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AS DISTRIBUTED; MOTION
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Programs: IDEKER MOVED, A.C. SCRIBNER SECONDED, THAT THE RESOLUTION SETTING
THE WESLACO LIBRARY AS THE MEETING PLACE BE REPEALED; MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY. The understanding is that most meetings will be in Weslaco, but
it up to the programs committee to find the appropriate site. Ideker reviewed
the programs report: Steve Walker in January, Bob Clemans in February, Gladys
Donohue in March, no general meeting in April/ a Board planning session in
April, a group effort on Endangered Species involvement in May. A.C. SCRIBNER
MOVED, Hodges SECONDED, GLADYS GIVE HER THORN FOREST FLOWERS SLIDE
PRESENTATION; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nominations: Ideker reported the Director nominees are Chapman, Everitt,
Fucik, Gilbertson, and MacWhorter. Chance is the President-Elect. Officer
nominees are Chapman (Vice President), Ideker (Secretary), and Hodges
(Treasurer).

Membership: Ideker challenged each present to turn in the name and address of
a prospective member by the next meeting. R. Pearcy said the membership
application should be ready by January.

Landscaping: Ideker spoke from Waggerman's notes. Heep worked out a
landscaping plan for the Texas Tourist Bureau. J.A. Pearcy said she turned it
in. Waggerman's notes concerned the Big Ditch and the managers' decision to
allow native brush to be planted and grow along it. Waggerman needs a $300
check for supplies and seeds to grow seedlings. J.A. PEARCY MOVED, A.C.
SCRIBNER SECONDED, TO ALLOT WAGGERMAN THE $300; MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT
OPPOSITION. Waggerman is to ask nurserymen (of both genders) to bid on growing
the seedlings. Members need to thank those responsible for the decision;
Waggerman needs to supply the address.

OLD BUSINESS:

Volunteers are needed to sign up to do the Plant of the Month. Raby Padgett
will select and do the January one. A.C. Scribner volunteered for February.
The FAS-Valley Land Protection Fund reached its goal today.

A.C. Scribner reported on NPP activities at the Valley Nature Center; A.C. Scribner and Waggyman gave away plants; It was deemed a very successful open house for the VNC. Especially enjoyed were Chapman’s and Frank Judd’s programs and the cactus society’s star, 2-table exhibit.

NEW BUSINESS. Gladys Donohue wants a Xeriscape speaker in March at the VNC; Heep is to do it and needs to borrow slides.

The meeting was adjourned at 1939.

NATIVE PLANT PROJECT
General Meeting Minutes
12 December 1986

Secretary Ideker called the general meeting to order. Twenty-three attended (18 members and 5 guests). Ideker gave the nominations committee report and programs committee reports (see Board minutes) and announced the Board had approved an expenditure of $300 for growing seedlings to plant a demonstration planting along the Big Ditch.

Ideker discussed the native plant of the month, Retama (Parkinsonia aculeata), selected because it has been introduced into the Middle East, tonight’s program topic. Retama is an attractive flowering tree which compensates during dry periods by shedding its leaflets and producing food with the chlorophyll in its green bark and rachises. The fruit are pods and the seeds resemble beans.

In lieu of an introduction, Ideker called Dr. John Fucik to the front. Ideker read the resolution (See The Sabal 3(6):5) commending John Fucik for his past extraordinary service contributions to the Native Plant Project and naming him an Honorary Life Member of the Native Plant Project. He presented Fucik with a framed copy of the resolution. The flabbergasted recipient thanked the Project for the honor and acknowledged that, despite the passage of four months since the resolution was passed and every member of the Project in possession of the resolution, no one had revealed its existence to him. With the framed resolution, he finally received his September issue of The Sabal.

Dr. John Fucik showed slides and spoke about some of the plants he photographed in the Kingdom of Jordan which resemble lower Rio Grande Valley native plants. He returned in August from a stay of about twenty months in Jordan where he studied the Jordanian citrus industry and ways to improve it. The Jordanian vegetation ranges from Tropical to Desert. The Rift Valley, extending into Africa, includes the River Jordan and the Dead Sea — the lowest point on Earth at 1,300 feet below sea level. The deep rift act like a greenhouse; there are no freezes down there. Amman, the capital, gets snow. Most of eastern Jordan is desert. Jordan has a Mediterranean climate with dry summers and wet winters. It is located at 330N like Louisiana with a population like Arizona. Fucik showed slides of individual plant species and compared them to LRGV native plants. Many of the ancestors of our cereals still grow wild in Jordan. Fucik presented a second 12-minutes slide show featuring much human interest material about Jordan.

There was no business to be conducted, the business meeting was omitted.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Frontera Audubon Society January meetings:

Board: Wednesday, 7 January 1987, 7:30 pm, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge.
General: Thursday, 15 January 1987, 7:30 pm, VALLEY NATURE CENTER, Gibson Park, Weslaco. Program: Dr. Robert Edwards, Professor of Biology at Pan American University-Edinburg, will talk about the endangered fishes of Texas.
Field Trip: Saturday, 17 January 1987, details elsewhere in this issue.
Wildlife Films: "Alaska" by Ken Creed, Wednesday, 21 January 1987, 7:30 pm
"Yellowstone National Park" by Dale Johnson, Tuesday, 3 February 1987, 7:30 pm
"Colorado Mountain Majesty" by Charles Hartman, Saturday, 28 February 1987, 7:30 pm
Tickets available at Klincks Drug, 2200 North 10th, McAllen

Bird Rescue is sponsoring a fund-raising program at the McAllen Civic Center on the evening of 12 January 1987 at 7 pm. For tickets, call 581-7783, 969-4128, or 425-4060. John Karger, a San Antonio bird rehabilitator, will present "Last Chance Forever", talk about lower Rio Grande Valley wildlife and wildlife habitat, and explain the problems with and process of getting Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge land acquisition funding.

LOST MEMBER: The Postal Service is returning mail addressed to Dave Thompson of Brownsville. Does anyone know his current address?

NATIVE-PLANT PROJECT DUES NOTICE

The treasurer of the Native Plant Project reminds all members that dues are due and payable each January.

Regular membership: $10.00 per year per individual voting member
Contributing membership: $25.00 per year per individual voting member
Life membership: $150.00 one time fee per individual voting member
Honorary Life membership: one's choice of the above amounts

Indicate any address/name correction (see reverse) and send dues to:

Native Plant Project
P.O. Box 1433
Edinburg, TX 78540-1433

Name: ___________________________ Name: ___________________________
Address: __________________________ Address: ___________________________
Answer to December Puzzle

January Puzzle

Newsletter Clues:
Next meeting business
President-Elect
Three Native Trees
Haven
Rare plant
Habitat preservers
Last meeting topic
What treasurer asks for

Extra hints:
Oriental nation (1A)
Sum (2)
Straighten (3)
What geese and taxis both do (4)
To be human (5D)

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B AO CENIZO
U BRASIL Y
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ALLTHORN I
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ANACAHUITAO
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ITA

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