

CLUB & ORGANIZATION NEWS

Native Plant Society

The Native Plant Society of Texas, Columbus Chapter, met at the home of Al and Rita Jamison near Frelsburg, on Saturday, April 13.

After enjoying coffee and refreshments, 28 members and guests toured the Jamison's property which includes an unusual riparian environment of Piper's Creek. Peter Loos of Conroe, horticulturist and owner of Ecosystems Nursery near Conroe, led the tour.

Participants were able to see native stands of two different kinds of ferns, broad leaf seaons, (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) and palmetto along the creek. Trees in the environment included cottonwoods, sycamores, black walnut, Mexican plum, and woolly bumelia. Woolly bumelia, *Bumelia lanuginosa*, is very noticeable this time of year for the new growth is a light green color which from a distance appear to be flowers.

The tree, common to much of Texas, is a valuable tree for wildlife. In the fall, birds enjoy the ripe black berries, and caterpillars of butterflies use the leaves for food. Another common name for the tree is Gun Elastic because the gum that comes from the bark has been used as a chewing gum by children in the past.

Another interesting plant on the Jamison property are large stands of wild orange, *Poncirus trifoliata*. This orange is a naturalized plant that was imported into the United States from China. Early settlers used it for a natural fencing material because of its long thorns.

Early nurseries in the area used it for grafting purposes for other citrus. J.F. Leyendecker, whose Pearfield Nursery was near Frelsburg, advertised it in his catalogue in 1984 as an ornamental shrub appreciated for its sweetly scented white citrus flowers. Escaping cultivation, the orange has in some cases formed large and invasive colonies.

The purpose of the Native Plant Society is to study and appreciate the native plants of Texas and to promote their use and conservation. For more information please call Ann Lindemann at 409-357-2772, or Kay Potter at 409-732-5033.

The next meeting was scheduled for 7 p.m., May 2, at Nesbit Memorial Library, 529 Washington, Columbus. Elena Caro, Texas Wildlife program coordinator for Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., was to present a program on "Backyard Wildlife Habitat."

Shropshire-Upton UDC

The Shropshire Upton Chapter #361 United Daughters of the Confederacy met Thursday, April 11, at 2 p.m. at the Nesbit Memorial Library. A Cross of Military Service was presented.

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Country Squares

The Country Squares square dance club had their anniversary ice cream social on Saturday, April 27, in Sheridan.

Attending were approximately 10 squares with guests from Bellville, La Grange, El Campo, Sugarland, Victoria, Gonzales, Yoakum, Ganado, Katy and Louisiana.

The club's caller, Traylor Walker, did a good job calling as usual. Everyone had a good time dancing and eating ice cream and cake.

The Country Squares dance every Monday night at the Sheridan Community Center.

Guests are welcome to come watch or dance.

Nature Club

The next field trip scheduled by the Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club will be held all-day Saturday, May 11.

Participants will meet at 8 a.m. in front of Prairie Edge Museum in Eagle Lake to car-pool and drive to Brazos State Park in the Richmond area for the outing.

Wild flowers, aquatic life and nesting and migrant birds will be featured on this occasion.

This field trip should be as least as successful for birders as the last one on April 20 at High Island wildlife sanctuaries, when the Club's field party identified more than 50 species.

Members and guests should wear field attire and bring picnic lunches and field glasses.

Baby shower honors Seaholm

Mrs. Peter (Kari) Canaris was the honoree at a baby shower on Saturday morning, April 20. Guests gathered at the home of the Clark Powers for the ten o'clock pre-natal courtesy.

Upon her arrival the mother-to-be received a white fresh flower corsage accented with a baby rattle and pacifier.

Guests enjoyed refreshments of pigs-in-the-blanket, mini-muffins, cookies, cake, deviled eggs, relish tray, punch and coffee.

The cake, a white confection, was decorated in blue, pink and yellow. Baby blocks about the cake spelled "B-A-B-Y". The serving table was accented with a beautiful fresh spring flower bouquet.

Special guests in attendance included the maternal grandmother of the coming Canaris family addition, Shirley Seaholm; maternal great grandmother, Dorothy Bruehl; and paternal great aunt, Helen Wilson.

Out of town guests included Baby Canaris' maternal great aunts, Joanie Seaholm of Greenville, S.C.; Shelli Seaholm of San Antonio; and Elizabeth Reynolds of Bridgeport.

Sharing hostess duties for the hospitality were Connie and Sunny Gerson, Vickie and Kimberly Powers, Diane and Stacey Spaniel and Maggie and Kelli Walker.

The honoree graciously received many useful and adorable gifts brought for Baby Canaris, including a car seat from the hostesses.

Alleyton

"As I told Mr. Adley," continued Seth, "I rather like Alleyton and, looking ahead at its post-war future, see lucrative possibilities with farming, ranching, and railroading center-most."

"I'm surely glad that you bring this up," said Jason sitting up in his chair and leaning forward on his paper-cluttered desk. "Frankly I have been looking for a bright and energetic young man to join me in some ventures. Maybe we can work out an arrangement."

"Of course I might like to learn about your proposal," returned Seth cautiously, "but just now I have yet to fulfill my present mission."

"Well," answered Jason, "I mention this opportunity, because you spoke earlier about your dissatisfaction with your present assignment."

"That's true," replied Seth, "but I feel obligated to finish what I started."

"That is an admirable trait," countered Jason, "but this is war time, and a contract may be less binding for a variety of reasons."

"Besides," coaxed Jason, "my offer may be worth so much more to you that you might even be enticed to sever your ties with Virginia and settle out here."

"Surely," he added, "the conflict can not go much longer, whether the Confederacy gains its independence

or not."

"You certainly make your proposal sound lucrative and rosy," ventured Seth, allowing himself to show a little more enthusiasm. "Is it proper for me to ask just what you have in mind?"

"Yes you may," answered Jason, "but first I should warn you that my proposition is not without risk. The success of my proposition also depends on how one views this interstate conflict."

"There are in these parts," continued Jason, "citizens who voted against taking sides and, even now, strongly object to the position Texas plays in the conflict. In short, they are not necessarily actively supporting the

Yankees but yet want no part of the Confederates either."

"These include area planters, ranchers, and even certain businessmen here in Alleyton and surrounding communities. They don't intend," he added, "necessarily to oppose the military. However, they do see ways in which they can make sizeable profits in supplying army essentials."

"That," said Jason, leaning across the desk to look directly at Seth, "in brief is an attitude that many on this western frontier have taken. Strict Southern patriots might consider such actions as acts of treason. This philosophy might prevail in Virginia but not necessarily out here."

"In fact," added Jason, "war profiteering, if I may use that unsavory expression loosely, out here is even moderately tolerated if handled diplomatically."

"I can see clearly the situation," answered Seth. "If a business happens to be a bit on the shady side, what kinds of diplomatic actions discourage punitive actions?"

"A good question indeed," answered Jason.

"As we say in the South," continued Jason grinning slyly, "rolling a noisy wagon axle reduces the squeaks. Properly compensated, local officials and even some military personnel, may look the other way when such business is transacted."

"It would seem to me," wondered Seth, "that if one committed an act which, in some way, interfered with the war effort and were caught, that the military might deal severely with the guilty culprit."

"That's probably true," was Jason's retort, "but if the person caught was not in the military service, the newly-formulated court system now in existence in this remote sector of the Confederacy would be slow to act."

"And a jury," he continued, "including a few members with anti-war sentiments might even be persuaded to be lenient or find the defendant not guilty in these troubled times."

"To put it another way," smiled Jason, craftily, "irregularities in business dealings out here might easily be forgiven - as contrasted with stern actions which might be taken were persons suspected of engaging in similar actions be brought to trial in such Confederate centers as Rich-

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"Your proposition," observed Seth, "begins to look fool-proof. Just what is it you have in mind?"

"It has to do with the selling of cotton," replied Jason.

"As you probably know," he added, "necessarily to oppose the military. However, they do see ways in which they can make sizeable profits in supplying army essentials."

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