



BIG THICKET ASSOCIATION
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SUBJECT: WILD ORCHIDS IN TEXAS-GUIDED HIKE
WITH AUTHOR JOE LIGGIO GREAT SUCCESS!
Saturday, May 7, Hickory Creek Savannah Sundew Trail

35 participants attended the Wild Orchid Field Trip led by author Joe Liggio. Despite dry conditions Texas ladies tresses orchids were spotted on a roadside and grass pink orchids and pitcher plants were viewed at the Watson Rare Plant Preserve. Below are notes by Anita Tiller, Botanist, Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens.

Joe Liggio Field Trip of May 7, 2011

We started the field trip at the Hickory Creek Savannah Unit and met at Sundew Trail off of 69/287.

Because the Sundew Trail area was so dry, we caravanned to the Watson Rare Plant Preserve ~two miles north on 69 from the Sundew Trail area. Below is a short list of plants we discussed on the May 7 field trip....but these are just a few of the species there....

At the Hickory Unit of the Sundew trail:

Sarracenia alata Yellow trumpet pitcher plants in bloom
Scutellaria ovata Heartleaf Skullcap in bloom
Cyrilla racimiflora Ti ti
Smilax laurifolia Greenbriar
Pteridium aquilinum Bracken fern
Acer rubrum Red maple
Black gum *Nyssa sylvatica*
Magnolia virginiana sweet bay magnolia
Woodwardia virginica VA chain fern
Osmunda regalis Royal fern
Rhexia lutea yellow meadow beauty in bloom
Osmunda cinnamomea Cinnamon fern
Asclepias viridiflora green milkweed in flower
Triadica sebifera Chinese tallow seedlings
Hibiscus lasiocarpus Swamp hibiscus
Eupatorium capillifolium Dog fennel
Pinus taeda Loblolly pine
Pinus palustris Longleaf pine
Echinacea pallida or sanguinea Coneflower in bloom

Persea borbonia Redbay in bloom
Scoparia dulcis Skullcap family
Sassafras albidum Sassafras
Urtica spp Nettle
Quercus marilandica Blackjack Oak
Rhynchosia spp Snout bean spp
Baptisia leucophaea Wild indigo
Passiflora lutea Yellow passion flower
Mimosa strigullosa powderpuff in bloom
Viburnum dentatum Arrow wood in bloom
Rubus spp Blackberry with unripe fruit

On access road from Sundew trail:
Spiranthes vernalis spring ladies tresses orchids

Off of boardwalk over pitcher plant sand bog areas
Calapogon tuberosus Grass Pink Orchid in bloom.....WOW!
Saracenia alata in bloom
Aletris aurea colic root Lily family in bloom
Scutellaria intergrifolia helmet flower
Pycnanthemum virginianum ? mountain mint
Rhyncospora colorata White top sedge
Asclepias lanciolata Lanceleaf milkweed in bloom
Linum spp yellow flax in bloom
Pluchea odorata Camphor weed
Liatris spp gayfeather
Drosera sp Sundew
Xyris spp yellow eyed grass
Rhexia lutea yellow meadow beauty
Eupatorium spp
Hypoxis spp in bloom
Boehmeria spp false nettle
Polygala spp in bloom

Pond adjacent to bogs:
Brasenia schreberi water shield in bloom
Myriophyllum heterophyllum two-leaf water milfoil (native) in bloom

In the woods along spring head near road where we parked:
Eupatorium fistulosum Joe Pye weed
Osmunda cinnamomea Cinnamon fern
Onoclea sensibilis sensitive fern
Adiantum capillus-verneris Maidenhair fern
Ruellia spp in bloom
Asclepias variegata white flowered milkweed
Physostegia digitalis false dragon head

On trail through woods at the edge of the bogs:
Spiranthes praecox green vein ladies tresses orchid in bloom

In the woods across the foot bridge over creek away from bogs:
I was told it was there but I had to leave early: *Magnolia macrophylla* in bloom

For more information:

Wild Orchids of Texas By Joe Liggio and Ann Orto Liggio, 1999, 228
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