

BIG THICKET ASSOCIATION

**P.O. Box 198**

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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 sanquinea* Coneflower in bloom

*Persea borbonia* Redbay in bloom

*Scoparia dulcis* Skullcap family

*Sassafras albidium* 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 shreberi* 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 pp., University of Texas Press, PO Box 7819, Austin TX 78713-7819**

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