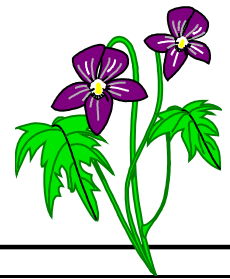


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

January/February, 2007



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, February 4, 2007, 1:00 p.m. – Planting & Organizing

John's 50 Bald Cypress, 50 Mayhaws and 500 Longleaf Pines will be delivered in mid January. We will pot some of them for the upcoming Master Gardener Plant Show. John has offered extra bare-rooted trees (especially Long-leaf Pines) to interested members. We'll also package and label various native plant seeds. Members are asked to bring a couple of native plants to donate for the drawing at the MG Spring Plant Sale and some empty 1-5 gallon pots for the trees.

Meeting Place: at the home of John Larkin - 86419 Mockingbird Hill Road (north of Folsom) - phone number: 796-5597 - Directions: From Folsom, head north on Hwy. 25 for 4 ½ miles (start your odometer at the Folsom stoplight.) You will pass Jenkins Lumber. Turn left on Mocking Bird Hill Road (if you cross the little bridge on Hwy 25, you've missed the turn.) Drive on Mocking Bird Hill Road for 4/10 of a mile, past the Blackwell Cemetery. John's house is on the left.

The FNPS' Next Public Appearance will be at the Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale on March 17-18, 2007. Get those native plant seeds in pots and survey your yard for natives that can be divided and shared. We will need about 50 native plants for our booth and 25-30 native trees.

From the President's Corner

Greetings to All Native Plant Lovers,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this first letter of my term as FNPS President. We have lost one of the founders of the FNPS, Muriel Larkin. Although Al & I joined the club too late to get to know her, we were able to learn what a special person she was through John, her husband of 65 years. We all mourn his loss and hope that we FNPS club members can bring some comfort to him. John, we are here for you. We want to plant a tree in memory of Muriel, somewhere in Folsom so that future generations will remember one of the individuals that started this wonderful organization to which we belong.

The FNPS will be 19 years old in February and is as viable today as it was in its inception. We hope that all of our members, new and experienced, will join us at the Feb. 4th meeting to pot trees and label plants and seeds in preparation for the Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale on March 17-18, 2007. Through events like this we can reach large numbers of people, face to face, to publicize the value and beauty of native plants. We have also been contacted by Kathi Mayor of Washington Parish tourism, inviting us to bring our informational booth to one of their upcoming events. We are indeed fulfilling our purpose, but must continue to take our show on the road during this crucial post-Katrina time when development and deforestation is rampant.

The winter months are short on blooms, but there are a few exceptions. **Witch Hazel** - *Hamamelis virginiana*, begins to bloom in late November and continues through early January. Also blooming in January and February are **Swamp Red Maple** - *Acer drummondii*, (a beautiful tree with red & yellow fall color), the yellow blooming vine, **Carolina Jessamine** - *Gelsemium sempervirens*, the lovely red blooming bushy vine, **Coral Honeysuckle** - *Lonicera sempervirens* and the delicate white to pink bells of **Huckleberry / Wild Blueberry** - *Vaccinium* spp. All of these native blooms are rich in nectar and are used by wintering hummingbirds.

Yvonne Bordelon

"I never before knew the full value of trees. Under them I breakfast, dine, write, read and receive my company." – Thomas Jefferson

Tree Facts: Trees Reduce Energy Consumption and Costs

- ♦ URBAN HEAT ISLANDS CAN BE 12 DEGREES HOTTER
- ♦ REDUCED NEED FOR ENERGY MEANS POWER COMPANIES USE LESS FOSSIL FUEL AND WATER AND REDUCE PRODUCTION OF HOT HOUSE GASES IN THE ATMOSPHERE
- ♦ TWO TREES PLANTED PROPERLY CAN SAVE AS MUCH AS 35% IN RESIDENTIAL ENERGY COSTS.
- ♦ ONE TREE SHADING AN AIR CONDITIONER COMPRESSOR IMPROVES ITS EFFICIENCY BY 10%.
- ♦ URBAN TREES CONTRIBUTE ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS OF \$2 BILLION OR .5 % OF ALL U.S. ENERGY USE.

December - February Native Blooms

Acer drummondii, **Swamp Red Maple**

Bidens aristosa, **Sticktight**

Bidens pilosa, **Shepherd's Needle**

Chaptalia tomentosa, **Sunbonnet**

Crataegus opaca, **Mayhaw**

Gelsemium sempervirens, **Carolina**

Jessamine

Hamamelis virginiana, **Witch Hazel**

Houstonia patens, **Bluets**

Ilex decidua, **Deciduous Holly**

(berries)

I. opaca, **American Holly** (berries)

I. vomitoria, **Yaupon Holly** (berries)



Lamium amplexicaule. **Henbit**

Lirodendron tulipifera, **Tulip Poplar**

Lonicera sempervirens, **Coral Honeysuckle**

Prunus angustifolia, **Chickasaw Plum**

Ranunculus fascicularis, **Early Buttercup**

Sassafras albidum

Senecio glabellus, **Yellow Top**

Taraxacum officinale, **Dandelion**

Taxodium distichum, **Bald Cypress**

Vaccinium spp., **Huckleberry / Wild**

Blueberry

Viola primulifolia, **White Violet**; *V. rosacea*,

Lavender/Purple Violet

Plant Sightings, Rescues and Restorations

- 🌿 Olga and Walter Clifton with the help of Nelwyn McInnis and some volunteers are restoring trees, shrubs and native plants on their property in Abita Springs. They plan to plant Cherrybark Oak, Cottonwood, Bald Cypress and many other natives.

Native Plant Propagation Tips - Part 2

by Yvonne Bordelon

If you have access to a computer and the Internet and want to keep up to date about what's happening in Louisiana with Native Plants then you should get on the email list for the Louisiana Native Plant Society. Just send an email to: banowetz@bellsouth.net and ask to be put on the list. Recently, subscribers received some valuable information about native plant seeds that were available for sale from Dr. Charles Allen. A couple of us ordered 9 different species including Ashy sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*), White false indigo (*Baptisia alba*), Yellow false indigo (*Baptisia sphaerocarpa*), Carolina lily (*Lilium michauxii*), Crimson-eyed Marshmallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), Ground nut (*Apios tuberosa*), Maryland goldenaster (*Chrysopsis mariana*) and Bigleaf Snowbell (*Styrax grandifolia*). Dr. Allen has the seeds of 25 perennial and shrub varieties plus 10 different species of grasses available for sale.

Here's the contact information:

Seed packs are variable depending on seed size. Cost = \$2.00 per pack plus \$0.60 for Shipping and Handling. For orders of 10 packs or more total shipping and handling = \$5.00

Call: 337-328-2252, email: native@camtel.net, web: www.nativeventures.net, Mailing address: Allen's Native Ventures, 5070 Hwy 399, Pitkin, La 70656

We planted some of each of the nine types of seed that were purchased and already have some sprouting. The white and yellow Baptisia seedlings were a pleasant surprise. The planting instructions given in the September newsletter were right on target and now there are four to five of each sprouting. I gathered planting information on all 9 types of seed and what follows are the instructions for the ones that have sprouted to date. Also sprouting are Bonnie Schmidt's Giant Coneflower ([Rudbeckia maxima](#)), the very, large purple aster from the rescue in front of Flower Estates and [Balduina uniflora](#) from the field next to Winn Dixie. Marsolan's Seed & Feed in Covington has a tray of wildflower seeds on the counter that are half price which includes [Asclepias tuberosa](#) (native Butterflyweed) and some other nice ones.

Propagating Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) from Seed –



This tip came from the UK (<http://seeds.thompson-morgan.com/uk/en/product/kw8378/1>). They love our native plants across the big pond.

Horsemint has the useful attribute of attracting bees and butterflies, is also effective in cottage garden borders as a mid height feature, and makes an interesting cut flower.

Sowing Instructions: Sow Fall to April at 15-20C (64-68F) on the surface of a good free-draining, damp seed compost, do not cover seed. Place in a propagator or seal container inside a polythene bag until after germination which usually takes 10-40 days. Reduce the temperature at night by placing container outdoors. Do not exclude light at any stage as this is beneficial to germination.

Growing Instructions: Transplant the seedlings when they are large enough to handle into 7.5cm (3in) pots. Gradually acclimate to outdoor conditions before planting out, 45-60cm (18-24in) apart in a rich, moist, well drained soil in full sun or part shade.

Propagating Crimson-eyed Marshmallow ([Hibiscus moscheutos](#)) or any of the Hibiscus family from Seed -

Starting Crimson eyed Marshmallow from seed is much like Texas Star Hibiscus. The seeds can be started from fall to spring in south Louisiana, but must be protected from freezing weather & frost. Plant the round seeds in good potting or seed starting mix and cover with ¼ inch of soil. They should be kept moist and should be exposed to plenty of sunlight. Once the seedlings get to be about 6 inches tall you should transplant them into 1 gallon pots.

Propagation Methods: By dividing the rootball, from herbaceous stem cuttings, from seed; sow indoors before last frost or direct sow after last frost.

Seed Collecting: Allow pods to dry on plant; break open to collect seeds

Propagating Leather Flower ([Clematis Crispa](#)) from seed tip from Marion – Plant seeds when they are fresh and green, before they turn brown, for better germination rates.



Book Alert

The paperback version of Wildflowers of Mississippi by S. Lee Timme is being reprinted and will be available for purchase in early May, 2007. Copies can be preordered from Amazon.com now & will be sent out when the book is published.

November Meeting Highlights

A good time was had by all at the annual FNPS celebration. After enjoying all of the delicacies brought by various members, the November meeting began with John reading the FNPS purpose. New members were recognized and introduced. The first order of business was the election of 2007 officers. John Larkin stepped down as President and Yvonne Bordelon was nominated and elected to fill that position. A.J. Bailey volunteered for the position of Recorder, suggesting that it be a rotating position of which she will be the chairman. Different members will be asked to record the minutes and the names of the plants that are discussed at each meeting. Members who bring plants to discuss are asked to jot down the names of the plants (if they know them) and give the list to A.J. or Yvonne & Al. All other officers remained the same.

The answer to the Door Prize question was Amsonia - common name Bluestar. Look on page 142 of Brown's, Wildflowers of Louisiana and Adjoining States or the USDA Plant Database for more information. Bob McClellan won the door prize.

Plans were made for our booth at the Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale. Yvonne & Al will give a presentation about Propagation of Native Plants. Our booth will need 16 volunteers if we want to keep it open for the entire 2 day show. To draw attention to our booth, we will conduct a drawing every 30 minutes to give away a native plant. New members who sign up at the show will receive 1 native tree and 2 native plants of their choice. All of the native plants and trees will be part of the display until they are given away.



Our next meeting will be a working and an informational meeting. We will pot about 35-40 of John's 500 Long-leaf Pines, 50 Bald Cypress and 50 Mayhaw trees for the Spring Show and also package and label seeds. Anyone who has native plants to share is urged to bring them so that they can be labeled for the drawing at the Show. John is graciously giving away some of the bare-rooted Long-leaf Pines, Bald Cypress and Mayhaw (that he ordered from the Forestry Dept.) to interested members.

We hope to secure a speaker for either the April or May meeting. Olga is contacting someone and we have a couple of options for meeting places in the works.

Candyce will be contacting members about the food for each meeting. It was suggested that we continue with the pot luck side dishes, with one member bringing a main course to each meeting. The sandwich wraps and the pot of chili that Candyce and David brought to the Nov. meeting were delicious.

November Mystery Plants

Tip from Linda Chance - Don't forget you can always send images or pressings to the LSU Botany Dept. (Dr. Urbastch, dept. head) or to Diane Ferguson, in the LSU Herbarium, for identification and verification. Make 2 pressings and label both. Keep one of the pressings to keep track of what was sent.

- o Osage Orange - *Maclura pomifera*
<http://weather.nmsu.edu/AbqPlantList/large/OsageOrange.htm> Also on page 14 of Leaf Key to Common Trees of Louisiana. The web site has a history of the tree, also.
- o Pavonia hastata -
- o Ladies Tresses *Spiranthes* seeds from Charlotte
- o Horsetail, Scouring Rush - *Equisetum* cuttings
<http://www.umm.edu/altmed/ConsHerbs/Horsetailch.html>
- o Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)
<http://www.hibiscus.org/species/phastata.php>

Guess the Mystery Plant and your name will go into the Door Prize Drawing.



The small, inconspicuous flowers of this large tree appear in late winter and are used by wintering hummingbirds. It has red, winged seeds and is common in shallow swamps. The leaves turn bright red and yellow when the weather gets cold in the autumn. What is it?

By the way, the wintering hummingbirds are all over St. Tammany Parish this year. Several club members, including Candyce & David, are enjoying hosting wintering hummingbirds and all are keeping their feeders clean and full. Don't forget that the ruby-throated hummingbirds will begin returning in late February or early March so make sure that feeders are clean and filled with fresh sugar water (4 parts water to 1 part sugar) because they will be hungry after their long flight from their wintering grounds. Who knows, if the feeders are filled and put up now one of those winter winged jewels may appear.

Membership Renewal Information

Dues for 2007 were due in January, 2007. If you get a printed copy, Postal Service newsletter, check your address label or, if you get an email version, check the number after your last name in the To: box. If you see 06, your membership is paid through December, 2006. If you see 07, you're paid through 12/2007. If you see 05 you are way behind & need to send in the form below ASAP.

Folsom Native Plant Society Membership Renewal / Application

It's time to pay your FNPS dues. Please complete the following and return with your check for either \$18.00 per family (if you wish to receive the newsletter by regular mail) or \$12.00 per family (if you wish to receive it by e-mail).

_____ \$18.00 Mail

_____ \$12.00 e-mail

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Mail to: Folsom Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 1055, Folsom, LA 70437

Folsom Native Plant Society Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of our group is to protect, perpetuate, and propagate the abundant native plants of Northwest St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, and adjacent areas, focusing primarily on our native wildflowers, which are fast disappearing; and to discourage pollution of our water and ground so basic to their survival.

Our Board for 2007

President Emeritus: John Larkin

President: Yvonne Bordelon

Treasurer: David Scherer

Recording Committee Chairman: A.J. Bailey

Newsletter: Al & Yvonne Bordelon

ylbordelon@bellsouth.net

Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer

New Member Mentor: Temae Theriot

FNSP Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>) Emily Canter
& Yvonne Bordelon

Dates to Remember

Feb. 9-11, 2007 - **The Louisiana Native Plant Society's Annual Meeting** at [Camp Hardtner in Pollock, LA.](#)

March 17-18, 2007 – **Master Gardener Spring Plant Show** at the Fair Grounds in Covington, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

March 30-April 1 - **Annual CCC** (Columbia-Catahoula-Copenhagen) tours talks food etc. contact Charles Allen native@camtel.net

Folsom Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 1055
Folsom, LA 70437

Please note:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2007

1:00 P.M

At the Home of John Larkin