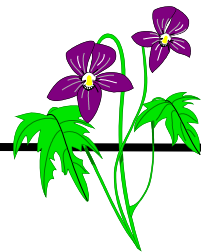


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

February 2012



From the President's Corner

I'm sitting outside watching the chickens scratch in the leaves and the birds and butterflies flit around the yard. It's late January, but it looks and feels like spring. Louisiana weather can be fickle, but the native plants continue to thrive.

The working meeting in January was well attended with a record breaking (I think) 24 people signing in. Everyone seemed to have fun packaging the seeds and potting the plants. I'd like to thank each of you who gave us a hand. Because of your hard work the FNPS booth at the Spring Garden Show on Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17, in Covington should be a great success. We'll still need some more volunteers to man the booth, so please contact me (ylbordelon@bellsouth.net) or Candyce and David if you can man the booth for a couple of hours, either day.

Before our nature hike to the Tchefuncte River, Rod gave us a crash course in identifying families of native trees and shrubs in winter. Some of the hike was a little more woody than I had planned due to the fact that a couple of the minor trails had storm damage and had grown over a bit. But everyone learned about many of the native plants that inhabit the riparian and forest land near the Tchefuncte River.

I'm looking forward to the next meeting at A.J.'s in Bush, where the habitat is quite different. Bring food if you'd like, and be prepared to learn more about the native plants in that neck of the woods and fields.

YLB

Some of My Favorite Native Blooms To Watch For In February

Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*

Red / Swamp Maple, *Acer rubrum*

Wild Blueberry, *Vaccinium* spp.

Confederate Jessamine, *Gelsemium sempervirens*

Violets, *Viola* spp.

Red Buckeye, *Aesculus pavia* are budding. The new leaves are copper-green and the flowers start to appear when the first leaves are still young.

Yvonne

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, February 26 at 1:00 p.m.

A.J. Bailey's Home, 82517 Owen Sharp Rd, Bush, LA 70431

From the south, you take Hwy. 190 north to Hwy. 437. Turn right onto N Lee Rd (Hwy 437) for 7.2 miles. Turn right onto LA-40 E for 5.5 miles. Turn right on Owen Sharp Rd. Destination is first driveway on right.

On Jan. 8, 2012, a Northern Mockingbird is sitting in a Green Hawthorne tree by the gate. The tree is full of its round, light brown fruit. The Mockingbird was wiping its beak on a branch and appeared to have been eating the fruit. The fruit of this Hawthorne is one of the last to be eaten in winter. Many years it is never touched and just falls to the ground. Perhaps the drought this year that made many of the "favorite" fruits scarce is the reason that this Mockingbird is eating the normally unpopular Green Hawthorne. On Dec. 30, 2011, I saw a Gray Catbird in the Green Hawthorne by the house. Only a few of its fruits are left.

Taiwan cherry trees are imported, not native, but their beauty, hardiness and wildlife value makes them one of my favorite flowering trees. The nectar rich, purplish rose colored blooms appear in late winter. This year, they started opening up around January 15th. I have observed Orange Crowned Warblers, Northern Cardinals and winter hummingbirds feeding from the blossoms. Small cherries follow the flowers. These are devoured by Cedar Waxwings, Mockingbirds, Catbirds and other fruit eating birds and animals. These birds drop the seeds under branches and I've already found several Taiwan Cherry seedlings this year.

A native tree that begins blooming right after the Taiwan Cherries is the Eastern Redbud. It's purplish rose flowers are also rich in nectar and it is used by many pollinators, including hummingbirds. Once Eastern Redbuds dotted the woods, homesteads and even the roadsides. Today it is hard to find them in nurseries due to a fungus that has spread throughout the U.S. They come up from seed readily and if you are lucky to find some that are fungus free, they will usually grow to a beautiful, small to medium sized tree.

Top 10 Sustainable Gardening List

Here's a quick list of the 10 sustainable gardening principles that I feel are the most important. To read more information about these 10 visit my article on Squidoo:

<http://www.squidoo.com/top-10-sustainable-gardening-methods>

1. Reduce Lawn Size
2. Catch, Conserve and Use Water on Site
3. Make a Compost Pile.
4. Mulch with Available Materials.
5. Use Native Plants
6. Plant Perennial, Multi-purpose flowers.
7. Intersperse Fruits and Vegetables Among Ornamentals.
8. Don't Use Chemical Pesticides, Encourage Natural Predators.
9. Make a Lasagna Garden.
10. Get Some Chickens.

February Mystery Plant

From late winter to early spring, the yellow flowers of this hardy, evergreen, perennial, native flowering vine can be seen blooming in the tops of trees and shrubs throughout Louisiana. Hummingbirds and other pollinators drink the rich nectar.

If you know the name of this native plant, then be sure to put your guess and your name in the Mystery Plant drawing at the next meeting.

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Attention!!

All FNPS members who renew their membership, either before or at the Northshore Garden Show (March 16-17, 2012) will receive their choice of 3 plants or seeds FREE. Use the membership form below to mail in your dues now. Then stop by the FNPS Booth at the show to collect your gift.

Yvonne

Folsom Native Plant Society MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

It's time to pay your FNPS dues. Please complete the following and return with your check. There are two types of membership, family and student. You will receive the FNPS Newsletter by one of two methods, email and snail mail.

<u>Type Membership</u>	<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Dues</u>	<u>Check One</u>
Family	Mail	\$18.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Email	12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	Mail	\$ 9.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Email	6.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

The purpose of the Folsom Native Plant Society 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.

Dates to Remember

FNPS Meeting
Sunday, Feb. 26, 1 pm,
at A.J.'s House
See Page 1 for directions

No March Meeting
Northshore Garden Show
March 16-17
St. Tammany Fairgrounds

Our Board for 2012

President: Yvonne Bordelon
Vice President/Program Chairman: Rod Downie
Treasurer: David Scherer
Plant List Recorder: A.J. Bailey
Newsletter: Nick Blady nblady77@gmail.com
Publishers: Candyce & David Scherer
Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer
FNPS Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>)
Yvonne Bordelon

Count and Be Counted! Make sure your local birds are represented in the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count—they won't count unless YOU do! Save the dates: **the 15th annual GBBC takes place February 17-20.** Everything you need to know to participate is on the website at www.birdcount.org, including downloadable instructions, FAQs, and a how-to video. [Get a regional list](#) of the birds you might see in your area in February so you can brush up on your identification skills ahead of time.

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



Free Seeds or Plants await all
Who have renewed or joined by
the Northshore Garden Show.
Stop by our booth to get your gift.