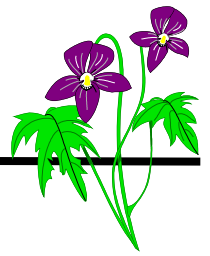


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

January 2012



From the President's Corner

Happy New Year to one and all from Yvonne Bordelon, your new president,

It's hard to believe that 2012 is upon us. I predict that native plants and sustainability will be an important part of suburban landscaping this year and for many years to come. Hopefully urban forests of native trees will replace the noxious Bradford Pear and Tallow trees.

A walk through native winter woods reveals the bounty of native plants. Winter brings forth fruits, nuts and seeds to sustain the wildlife. The seed pods of Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) are forming and will soon burst like magic to broadcast their black seeds throughout the underbrush. The clusters of orange, pointed berries of the Dwarf Smilax (*Smilax pumila*) vine dot the ground. The pink or white early spring flower buds of the Wild Blueberries (*Vaccinium spp.*) are emerging.

The January meeting will be a working meeting, but after the plants are potted and the seeds are packaged, we'll go for a winter walk to the Little Tchefuncte River. The pine and hardwood forest land which is on a ridge from the highway, down to the river contains many upland species of plants. A creek on the west side winds through a low riparian area, which contains many wetland and lowland plants. Some of our local experts will give tips on identifying trees and shrubs in winter.

I hope you'll come for the work and the fun. Feel free to bring some food to share. Also, if you have any extra seeds or plants for the plant show booth, bring them, too. YLB

*From the **Past** President's Corner*

Happy New Year Everyone, I just finished watching the meteor shower. It was really a sprinkle however. I was reflecting on last year and planning for this year. I would like to thank everyone for all of their hard work last year. We had a successful plant show and the meetings have been fantastic. Native Plant information is spreading throughout the parish. David, Candyce, Nick, Rod, Jim R, and Walter thanks for all of your support and hard work. We have a wonderful group of new members who are anxious to help and learn about our native plants. Kay will be our new library support person as of January 1st, I have retired from Lee Rd. Yvonne will be our fearless leader for the upcoming year. I know everyone, including myself will be there to help her in any way we can. Let's make 2012 an informative one. Thanks again, aj

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, January 15 at 1:00 p.m.

[Yvonne Bordelon's Home](#), 72630 Holly Road No. 1, Covington, LA 70433

From the south, you take Hwy. 190 north into Covington to where Hwy. 190 turns west at Hwy. 25 at the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center. Continue on Hwy. 190 west for 2.8 miles. Turn left onto Holly Road No. 1. Proceed .1 miles, straight past the basketball goal, to 72630 Holly Road No. 1.

Plant List ID's: December 2011

These native plants were identified at our last meeting. If you have a plant you're not sure what it is, play stump the experts and find out what it is.

<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American Hornbeam
<i>Crataegus marshallii</i>	Parsley Hawthorn
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	Titi
<i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i>	Autumn Fern
<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	Wild Ageratum
<i>Galium spp.</i>	Bedstraw
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium
<i>Hypericum brachyphyllum</i>	St. John's Wort
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly

<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winter Berry
<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	Star Anise
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Waxleaf Ligustrum
<i>Lyonia lucida</i>	Fetterbush
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	Wax Myrtle
<i>Persea palustris</i>	Swamp Bay
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern Red Oak
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	Cow Oak
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac
<i>Solidago spp.</i>	Goldenrod
<i>Vaccinium arborium</i>	Tree Huckleberry
<i>Vaccinium elliotii</i>	Elliott's Blueberry
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood
<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	Walter's Viburnum

Observations of Birds and Native Plants by Yvonne Bordelon

Winter is the time when the fruits of native plants are the most important to wildlife. The robins are covering the many members of the Holly family (*Ilex*) eating their berries. Many other native plants produce fruit, seeds and nuts which are eaten by many types of birds, but we have observed birds eating other, lesser known seeds, berries and nuts.

Recently, I noticed a murder of crows cawing and acting strangely in the top of the large oak trees in the front yard. My first thought, since it was cloudy, was that the crows were mobbing a hawk or an owl, but when I grabbed the binoculars, I saw the crows hanging upside down from the seed pods of some Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*) vines and fluttering their wings until one of the pods broke off. The crows then took the pods to a large horizontal branch and pecked the pod open to eat the seeds.

Last winter, I saw pine siskins sitting on Trumpet Creeper seed pods eating the seeds from the Trumpet Creeper pods. In spring and summer the lovely, nectar rich red-orange flowers are used by hummingbirds.

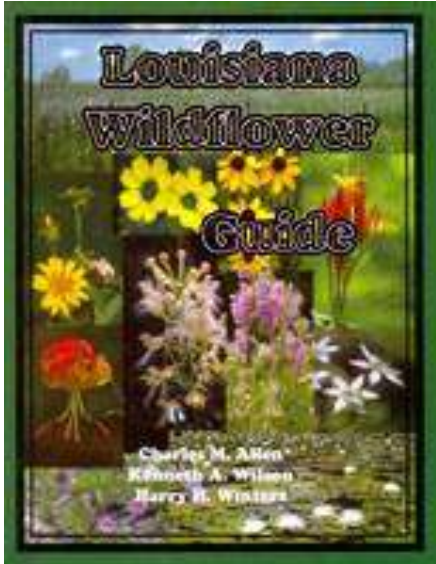


The seed pods of one of our native milkweed vines, Angularpod Milkvine, *Matelea gonocarpos* are also beginning to open to disperse their fluffy seeds. In summer, Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on this and other members of the milkweed family (*Asclepias*).

It would be interesting for others to relate their observations of wildlife and native plants. I hope that some of our members will jot down unusual or never before seen behaviors of animals and birds. Such as: What were they eating? Were there large numbers of a certain caterpillar on a native plant? What plant fibers was a bird using to build its nest? And so on. Everything in nature is related and biodiversity is the key to a healthy environment. Please email or send us your observations so that we can post some in the newsletter. We can all be like Thoreau and share our knowledge of the native plants and animals of Louisiana. YLB

Louisiana Wildflower Guide by Charles M. Allen, Kenneth A. Wilson and Harry H. Winters

The long awaited *Louisiana Wildflower Guide* has been published and is available for sale from www.nativeventures.net . This wonderful guide contains excellent descriptions and over 500 color photos of both native and some common "wild" introduced plants that can be found in Louisiana and the bordering states. It is geared to a reader between a novice and an expert and is organized by plant family. An



informative introduction, useful glossary and plates showing line drawings of plant parts add to this outstanding guide.

Louisiana Wildflower Guide will be a valuable tool for any native plant enthusiast. As I browsed through the book for the first time, I was delighted to see a photograph of a vine (that grows along our road through the woods) which I had been trying to identify for years. The description detailed both native and introduced members of the yam (*Dioscorea*) family. My vine is a Wild Yam, *Dioscorea villosa* and occurs in 54 parishes.

I recommend this skillful work and look forward to spending many happy hours perusing the wonderful photographs and reading the informative descriptions that are sure to help me identify more of the beautiful native plants of southeastern Louisiana.

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, Jan. 15,
1 pm, at Yvonne's House, Covington
(See Page 1 for Directions)

FNPS Meeting - Sunday, Feb. 26,
at A.J.'s House

No March Meeting

Northshore Garden Show
March 16-17

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

FNSP Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>)

Yvonne Bordelon

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

