

Folsom Native Plant Society

May 2005



Next Meeting Date:

Sunday, May 15, 2005 at 1:00 p.m

Last Meeting before the Summer Break

At the Home of Walter and Olga Clifton

22315 Main St., Abita Springs, LA Phone: (985) 892-1468

Directions from Covington: From Boston Street, take ABITA RD [LA-36] - go 2.7 mi. Continue on LA-59 - go 0.3 mi. Turn left on MAIN ST (just before the Catholic Church) - go 0.4 mi. The Cliftons' house is on the left.

From the President's Corner



Don't know if there are many of us enthusiasts sometimes referred to as plant nuts, particularly about wildflowers. Us plant nuts do have other interests, but we like to think that we are instrumental in preserving the plants that we have been blessed with for perhaps thousands of years. We can help preserve these plants by growing them in our own yards and collecting the seeds and scattering them where they won't get murdered by our lawn mowers.

I do my best to keep track of the wildflowers that bloom in my yard and the sequence they bloom in, thus: *Oenothera speciosa* (Mexican Primrose), are still blooming; *Verbena rigida* (Stiff Verbena) are looking great on our roadsides and are still blooming; *Tradescantia Virginia* (Spiderwort, still blooming; *Krigia dandelion* are cute flowers and are not a pest like the annual dandelion; *Salvia lyrata* were very showy this year; *Prunella vulgaris* closely followed the salvia in the same proximity and also made a nice showing, especially when you see them by the tens of thousands; and finally *Phlox divaricata*, these are the plants Temae and I rescued when the owner was applying an herbicide, these have pretty pink flowers (they also come in blue, lavender and white) and are quite numerous; and also *Scutellaria integrifolia* (Narrow-leaved Skullcap) which just started blooming several days ago.

Thanks,
John Larkin

April Meeting Highlights

The Plant Swap was a smashing success. Club members (many of whom had not been seen for ages) enjoyed swapping a variety of the wonderful plants, native to St. Tammany, with each other. Al and Yvonne Bordelon served crawfish etouffe, salad and garlic bread. Allana Bosch provided us with a delicious desert.

Future meeting times and dates were discussed. Jim Mizell has offered his pool house as a meeting place for night meetings. It was suggested that we have some of the meetings at night and some on Sunday afternoon. Perhaps the night meetings could be in conjunction with daylight savings time so that members wouldn't have to drive after dark. An opinion poll is included below and will be compiled and discussed by the board at a later time. **Please either bring the opinion poll to the next meeting, e-mail it to Candyce & David at candyces@bellsouth.net or snail mail to FNPS P.O. Box 1055, Folsom, LA 70437.**

The scope of this newsletter can not cover the large number of interesting and unusual native plants that were offered at the plant swap. You should have been there! The many members in attendance enjoyed themselves and left with scores of treasured natives, eager to take advantage of the beautiful gardening weather.

FNPS Website

The website is still under construction. We still need someone who was in the club in the

early years to write up a short history of the club, including the founding members, the story of its creation and the date, etc. Anyone who would like to share digital photos or articles for the newsletter or website should e-mail them to Yvonne & Al at YLBordelon@aol.com .

May Native Blooms

Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
Leather-flower, Clematis (*Clematis crispa*) (late April)
Maypop, Passion Flower (*Passiflora incarnate*)
Oak-leaved Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)
Stokes' Aster (*Stokesia laevis*)

Hummingbird Plants
Coral Bean, Mamou (*Erythrina herbacea*)
Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*)
Iris, Zig-zag-stemmed (*Iris brevicaulis*)
Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)
Pickerel-weed (*Pontederia cordata*)

WHO WANTS TO BE A WILDFLOWER MILLIONAIRE?

By Martin Morgan

So how well do you know your *Wildflowers of Louisiana* by Dr. Clair A. Brown, the book President Larkin has called the "bible" of the Folsom Native Plant Society. Take this quiz and find out. Answers and relevant page numbers are below.

1. (\$2,000) This member of the Grape family is often mistaken for poison ivy but can be distinguished by the 5 leaflets instead of poison ivy's 3:
A. Kudzu
B. Virginia Creeper
C. Greenbriar
D. Carolina Moonseed
2. (\$4,000) This member of the Parsley family is widespread in wet sites, including the marshes near Madisonville, and is poisonous to people and animals:
A. Mamou
B. Daisy Fleabane
C. Poison Hemlock
D. Prunella
3. (\$8,000) What family of plants has the most species featured in *Wildflowers of Louisiana*:
A. Lily Family
B. Fumitory Family
C. Legume family
D. Sunflower Family
4. (\$16,000) *Rubus clair-brownii* is named of course after Dr. Brown. What type of plant is it:
A. Dewberry
B. Orchid
C. Clover
D. Sunflower
5. (\$32,000) According to Dr. Brown, this plant "was once abundant along the meandering sloughs and pine flatwoods between Hammond and Slidell, but today it is difficult to find a living plant of this species in the area:"
A. Summer-Blooming Wild Azalea
B. Crane-fly Orchid
C. *Herbertia*
D. Sunflower
6. (\$64,000) This plant is widely distributed, including St. Tammany Parish, and is the only member of the Fumitory family to be featured in *Wildflowers of Louisiana*:
A. Spiderflower
B. Wild-ginger
C. Golden *Corydalis*
D. Rose *Pogonia*
7. (\$125,000) This plant became widespread in Louisiana following the Great Flood of the Mississippi in 1927:
A. Bluebell
B. Persian Clover
C. Black Mangrove
D. Arrowhead
8. (\$250,000) Indians are supposed to have made a decoction of this plant to prove their suitability for the warpath. Strong decoctions are emetic, as reflected in its species' name *vomitorea*:

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 2005

President: John Larkin

Vice President: David Campbell

Treasurer: David Scherer

Newsletter: Al & Yvonne Bordelon YLBordelon@aol.com

Hospitality Committee: Susan Donaldson (Chairman), Millicent (Jimmie) Canter & Lois Gagliano

New Member Mentor: Temae Theriot

FNSP Website: Emily Cantor Amthor & Yvonne Bordelon

FNSP Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FolsomNativePlantSociety/>

ANSWERS

1. B. See Pg. 108.
2. C. See Pg. 123.
3. D. See pages 183-226
4. A. See pg. 71.
5. A. see pg. Xxv
6. C. See pg. 58
7. B. See pg. 93
8. D. See pg. 106
9. A. See pg. 112
10. C. See pg. v

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P.O. Box 1055
Folsom, LA 70437

Please note:

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1 P.M

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