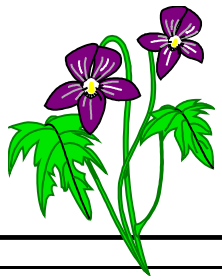
Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org September, 2007



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Program: Culmination of our Propagation Series - Bring native plant seedlings to discuss and identify. Adult specimens for show and tell or to identify are welcome as well. Also bring a pot luck dish.

2007-08 Study Focus: Native Plants That Attract Birds, Butterflies and Pollinators

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 old stoplight by the Texaco.) You'll 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.*

From the President's Corner

Salutations to All,

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over, but we look forward to some cool fall weather. Even the native plants took a beating with the record high temperatures this summer. Al and I have implemented several water conservation techniques that channel rain / storm water into our various gardens and hold it there until it has a chance to soak in. Mulching with layers of pine straw and leaves also helps to hold moisture while cooling and enriching the soil. Rain barrels with mosquito dunks (a safe, biological way to kill mosquito larvae) in them are another good way to save precious rain water.

From now on, when an exotic, introduced plant dies in our yard, we will replace it with one of the beautiful, local, low maintenance native plants. Some new additions that are brightening up our gardens include: Spotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata)*, Ashy Sunflower (*Helianthus mollis)*, Savanna or Chapman's Aster (*Symphyotrichum chapmanii*), Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*), Giant Coneflower (*Rudbeckia maxima)*, Coral Nymph Salvia (*Salvia coccinea),* Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) and Clustered Bushmint (*Hyptis alata),* all of which are blooming now. Also, spring blooming: Sharp-sepal Beard-tongue (*Penstemon tenuis*), White Baptisia (*Baptisia alba*), Yellow Baptisia (*Baptisia sphaerocarpa*), 3 native Milkweeds (Asclepias spp.) and Blue Star (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*) were planted. I attribute most of this year's wonderful butterfly and native bee population explosion to the addition of these beautiful natives.

This year, along with focusing on native plants that attract birds and butterflies, the FNPS will include plants that attract many animal pollinators in the focus list. In the past ten years there has been a steady decline in the population of animal pollinators that are so important to both our food supply and to the propagation and preservation of native plants. This decline is due, in part, to native habitat destruction. This year we hope to help enlighten St. Tammany Parish and the world about one more of the numerous benefits of landscaping with and the preservation of native plants.

Another new feature in the newsletter is the revival of the "Latin Quarter". As Temae once did several years ago, we will once again delve into the mysteries and meaning of botanical plant names.

We hope to see you all at John's house on September 23, 2007. Bring some native plant seedlings and/or plants for identification and discussion and also bring some of those delectable dishes that you prepare so well.

Yvonne Bordelon

"There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before." *~Robert Lynd, The Blue Lion and Other Essays*

Plant Sightings

John reports that the extensive stand (thousands) of Hibiscus moscheutos that he saw last year on Airline Hwy., near Ormond Estates was in full bloom this summer. The seeds should be ripe by now, so anyone wanting to collect the seeds of this gorgeous plant may want to take a ride to Destrehan.

June - September Native Blooms

Balduina uniflora – One-flower Honeycomb Head
Bidens *alba* - Common Beggartick
Bidens aristosa – Sticktight
Bidens pilosa – Shepherd's Needle
Clematis crispa – Leather Flower
Clematis virginiana – Virgin's Bower
Coreopsis tinctoria – Annual Coreopsis
Coreopsis tripteris – Tall Coreopsis
Callicarpa americana - American Beautyberry fruit
Elephantopus carolinianus - Elephant's Foot
Euonymous americanus - Strawberry Bush fruit
Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe-pye Weed
Eupatorium perfoliatum, E. rotundifolium & E. rigosum – white clustered flowers
Euphorbia corollata – Flowering Spurge
Euphorbia pubentissima – False Flowering Spurge
Gentiana saponaria - Bottle Gentian, Soapwort Gentian
Gaillardia pulchella – Indian Blanket
Habenaria ciliaris – Yellow Fringed Orchid
Helenium amarum - Bitterweed
Heterotheca mariana – Golden Aster
Hibiscus aculeatus – Pineland Hibiscus
Hypoxis hirsuta – Yellow Star Grass
Hyptis alata – Clustered Bushmint
Liatris squarrosa, L. squarrulosa & *L. pycnostachya* - Blazing Star
Malus angustifolia - Crabapple fruit
Oenothera biennis – Evening Primrose
Phlox divaricata - Blue Phlox
Prunella vulgaris - Self-heal
Oenothera speciosa - Showy evening Primrose
Oxallis rubra, *O. violacea* - Violet Wood Sorrel
Rhexia alifanus – Meadow Beauty
Rhexia mariana- Pale Meadow Beauty
Ruellia caroliniensis & R. nudifolia - Wild Petunia
Rudbeckia amplexicaulis – Clasping-leaf Cone-flower; *R. hirta*, Black-eyed Susan; *R. maxima* – Giant Cone-flower & *R. fulgida* – Bracted Cone-flower
Ranunculus fascicularis - Early Buttercup
Rudbeckia fulgida - Bracted Cone-flower; R. amplexicaulis and R. hirta - Black-eyed Susan
Ruellia caroliniensis and *R. nudiflora* - Wild Petunias
Salvia lyrata - Lyre-leaved Sage
Sarracenia alata - Yellow Pitcher-plant
Scutellaria integrifolia - Rough Skullcap
Sisyrinchium atlanticum, *S. capillare* - Blue eyed grass
Solidago – Golden Rods (four varieties)
Spiranthes spp. - Ladies' tresses orchid
Stokesia laevis - Stokes' Aster
Taraxacum officinale - Dandelion
Tradescantia virginiana - Spiderwort
Triodanis perfoliata - Venus' Looking-glass
Verbena rigida - Stiff verbena
Verbena tenuisecta – Moss Verbena
Vernonia missurica, V. altissima – Ironweed
Viburnum dentatum - Arrowleaf Viburnum fruit
Xyris iridifolia - Yellow-Eyed Grass

Hummingbird Plants

Hibiscus coccineus – Texas Star Hibiscus
Impatiens capensis - Spotted Jewelweed
Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal Flower
Lobelia siphilitica - Big Blue Lobelia
Malvaviscus arboreus drummondii – Small Turk's Cap
Physostegia virginiana – Obedient Plant
Spigelia marilandica - Indian Pink
Stachys floridana - Tuberous Hedge-nettle (invasive**)**

Butterfly Common Host Plants

Achillea millefolium – Yarrow (Painted Lady)
Agalinis fasciculate – Pink Foxglove (Buckeye)
Aristolochia spp. – Pipevine (Pipevine Swallowtail)
Asclepias spp. – Milkweed (Monarch, Queen)
Asimina parviflora – Small-flowered PawPaw (Zebra Swallowtail
Aster spp. – Many Varieties of Aster (Pearl Crescent)
Cassia fasciculate – Partridge Pea (Sulphurs)
Centrosema virginianum – Butterfly Pea (Southern Cloudwing)
Cirsium spp. – Thistle (Painted Ladies)
Helianthus angustifolius - Swamp Sunflower, *H. tomentosus* (Silvery Checkerspot)
Hibiscus spp. – Mallows & Hibiscus (Checkered Skipper, Gray Hairstreak)
Passiflora incarnata – Passion Flower (Gulf Fritillary)

Environmental Destruction Alert!!! In keeping with our purpose: "…and to discourage pollution of our waters and ground so basic to their survival", here is some important contact information that you may need.
*Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (LW&F) – Keith Cassio (*kcascio@wlf.louisiana.gov)
Water Pollution – DEQ (deqenforcement@LA.GOV)
*Wetlands destruction &/or violations – Corps of Engineers (*Cemvn-de@mvn02.usace.army.mil)
Natural Resources Conservation Service – John Pitre (john.pitre@la.usda.gov)

The Latin Quarter

No, we're not touring Paris, but instead we will visit the wonderful world of botanical plant names. Our revival of Temae's Latin Lesson column is sure to help everyone as we continue our quest to protect, perpetuate and propagate the abundant native plants of St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana and the adjacent areas. And who knows, someday maybe we'll all be able to understand our local botanical name expert, Jim, when he tells us about our beautiful native plants. Now, "Let's start at the very beginning"…

Botanical plant names are made up of Latin and Greek words that describe the attributes of a particular plant. Each plant is given a binomial (two name) label.

The **first part** of the name is the **genus or family name** (like Smith) and is always **capitalized**.
The **second part** of the name is the **specific epithet** (like your first name) and is always **lowercase**.
Botanical names are always typed in ***italics***.

Let's look at some plants that are blooming right now.
Monarda punctata
Monarda = member of the mint family (bee-balm**, horsemint**, bergamot) and *punctata* = **spotted**
So put them together and you have **Spotted Horsemint**

Here's another one: *Salvia coccinea*
Salvia = **Sage** and *coccinea* = **scarlet**
So put them together and you have **Scarlet Sage**

Both examples are also in a broader family, the Mint or Lamiaceae family. Members of the Mint family have square (4-sided) stems rather than round.

May Meeting Highlights

The answer to the mystery plant question was Stokes Aster (*Stokesia laevis).* We had 2 winners: Alma and C.K. Temae suggested that the September meeting focus on seedling recognition and it was approved.

Our next public appearance will be at Mizell's Festival on Sept. 8, 2007, so we will need to have a planning meeting on either Aug. 19 or 26 as we did last year.

Next year's theme will be Native Plants that Attract Birds and Butterflies. Sally and Jimmie need some help with landscaping Cassidy Park in Bogalusa. Anyone who wants to help should contact Jimmie Canter. We have a speaker from the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Research Program (SLU) lined up for our Oct. 16 meeting. The propagation workshop was informative and productive.

August Planning Meeting and Mizell Festival Highlights

The planning meeting was very productive with the hard-working volunteers packaging about 200 packs of seeds. A tentative 2007-08 calendar was formulated. We voted to order 50 Bald Cypress, 50 Mayhaw and 50 Mixed Wild Plum tree seedlings from the Forestry Dept. this year. They will arrive in January, 2008 and we will pot them and give them away to new members at the Master Gardener Plant Sale in March.

As a result of all this hard work the FNPS booth at Mizell's Festival on Saturday, September 8th, was a big success. Even though we were short handed Margaret Breaud, Kristen Stanley, John Larkin, Temae Theriot, Jim Russell, Mary Ann McClellan, Joanna Miller, Billie Deckert and Alma Chasez sweated through the long day to spread the word about native plants to about 200 people who visited our booth. A special thanks goes to our president emeritus, John, who was there before 7:00 a.m and stayed to help us pack up at the end of day. We have 4 new members which brings our club's paid membership up to 76.

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

This native perennial herb is confined to moist pinelands, along ditches, sloughs and wet sites. It grows on erect stems to 3 feet tall and the funnel-shaped yellowish flowers with dark centers occur from May to September. Stems, leaves and seed pods feel rough to the touch. It is attractive to birds, bees and butterflies and is in the Mallow family. If you know the answer, write the name of the plant and your name on a slip of paper at the September meeting to be eligible for the door prize drawing.

The Cycle of Life - the Birds and the Bees

by Yvonne Bordelon

What do the birds and the bees have to do with native plants? Actually, quite a lot. During the past 10 years, as habitat destruction resulting from development and urban sprawl continues to increase, scientists are reporting a decline in pollinators. Commercial honey bee hives were first devastated by the Varroa mite and now are experiencing catastrophic hive collapse. Butterflies and birds are suddenly dropping dead all over the country. Why should this bother the average Joe, you might ask? It should bother all of us because one-third of our food supply, at least 75% of all the staple crop plants that feed human kind depend on animals for pollination in order to produce fruits, nuts and vegetables. Of course, native plants are also affected. Fewer flowers are pollinated, resulting in lower seed production and reduced propagation. If something is not done, stands of rare wildflowers may just die out and disappear.

Scientists theorize that the reasons behind this decline in pollinators includes the use of pesticides and other toxic chemicals, native habitat destruction and the fragmenting of habitats by housing developments and the planting of monocultures of exotic plants and/or turf grass that these important insects and birds can not use. Hence, two of the necessary requirements to sustain life: food and a place to raise their young are steadily being destroyed.

When looking at the interrelationship of mammals, insects and plants startling discoveries are revealed. For example, Black Bears in the Appalachians need the native Blue Berries (Vaccinium spp.) to survive. The Blueberry plants need native pollinators to produce the blueberries. No bees and hummingbirds means no blueberries and no blueberries means the bears die of starvation.

In June, 2007 in a speech to the Kaiser Family Foundation, Edward O. Wilson, noted Harvard Biologist, stated: if humans were to disappear the effects on the insect world would be minimal. "It's unlikely a single insect species would go extinct except three forms of body and head lice." The primal, complex web of life would continue "minus all the species we have pushed into extinction."

But, remove the insects, and Wilson paints a scenario, in which not only do the bees, flies, beetles, moths and butterflies disappear, but all the plants that rely on them to set fruit, nuts and seed vanish as well. Since insects (not earthworms) are the principal tillers of the soil, without them the soil would also decline, resulting in dwindling food sources. He speaks of "an ecological dark age" where "the survivors would offer prayers for the return of weeds and bugs."

Some recommendations that will help turn the tide include:

1. Replacing lawns with a biodiversity of native plants in suburban yards and governmental areas.
2. Leaving natural green spaces when developing land.
3. Limiting the use of pesticides, herbicides and other toxic chemicals.
4. Encouraging all types of animal pollinators, including our native pollen bees (which have been long overlooked).

Suggested Plants to Attract Native Pollen Bees

Native bees, unlike honeybees, do not fly great distances from their nests to forage so plantings should be within 200 yards of the crop to be pollinated. Some of these plants are also good for attracting beneficial insects.

Shrubs & Trees	
Blackberry (*Rubus*)	Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
Dogwood (*Cornus*)	Sumac (*Rhus*)
Fruit trees - apple (*Malus)*, cherry, plum(*Prunus*)	Willows (*Salix*)
Serviceberry (*Amalanchier*)	

Flowers & Herbs	
Asters (*Aster*)	Impatiens (*Impatiens*)
Beard tongue (*Penstemon*)	Milkvetch (*Astragalus*)
Bee balm (*Monarda*)	Milkweed (*Asclepias*)
Buttercup (*Ranunculus*)	Mints (*Mentha, Saliva*)
Coneflower (*Echinacea*)	Scorpion weed (*Phacelia*)
Daisies	Sunflowers (*Helianthus*)
Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)	Tickseed (*Coreopsis*)
Evening primrose (*Oenothera*)	Vervain (*Verbena*)
Globe mallow (*Sphaeralcea*)	Wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum*)
Goldenrod (*Solidago*)	

Besides helping the farmers and the food supply, reducing lawn size and planting native plants will cut maintenance time and cost, conserve water and contribute to a healthy environment.

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 07, you're paid through 12/2007. If you see 06 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). Special student rates are available: $9.00 for the printed newsletter & $6.00 for the email version.

Regular Membership
_____ $18.00 Mail

_____ $12.00 e-mail

Student School Name: _____
_____ $9.00 Mail

_____ $6.00 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

Sept. 23, 1:00 p.m. at John's – FNPS Mtg., Seedling Recognition

Sept. 28-29 – Butterfly Blast at Allen Acres , more info: (http://www.lnps.org)

Oct. 16, 6:00 p.m. at Covington Library – FNPS Mtg., Lake Pontchartrain Basin Research Program Speaker – Cypress Swamps

Nov. 18, 1:00 p.m. at John's – FNPS Mtg. Holiday Get Together

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

Please note:
Next Meeting:
Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007
1:00 P.M
At the Home of John Larkin