

Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

May 2014



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, May 18, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Home of Gordon and Markey Barré

17360 Choctaw Drive, Tickfaw, LA 70466

From St. Tammany Parish, Take Hwy 190 west to Hwy 1064, turn right. Go 4 1/2 miles to stop sign at intersection of Hwy 443. Cross over Hwy 443 to continue on Faller road for about 3 miles to Choctaw Drive. The Barrés' house is at the end on the right.

From the President's Corner

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone enjoyed the visit to Archbishop Hannan High's native demonstration garden. Jenny Geesey described ways she has incorporated the garden into the school's curriculum. She has accomplished wonders, and was a most gracious hostess.

Our May meeting will showcase another native habitat on the western border of our Parish. I hope the weather will cooperate for a successful garden tour of Markey and Gordon's property.

The plant swap was a great opportunity for members to add new species to their gardens. If you have any plants to share, please bring them to the May meeting. I will be bringing some of the native trees for those members who were unable to attend the May meeting.

This will be our last meeting until fall, so please bring a dish and share a nature walk 'Native Plant' style. Our cold wet spring is creating unusual occurrences in our growing season. Plants as well as people are affected by the weather. See you at the meeting,
aj



Photo shows Helenium flexuosum.

Colorful Combinations of Spring Native Wildflowers

Story and Photos by Yvonne Lelong Bordelon

The cold, wet winter weather seemed to spur our lovely natives into outstanding blooms this spring. Now, with the most recent gully washer, all the buds are popping.

As FNPS members, we are often asked to recommend the best plant combinations for landscaping with native plants. Things to be considered are the plants' growing conditions, size and color.



I prefer easy-care perennial wildflowers and I often mix them with old-fashioned favorites. The photo shows native coreopsis, stiff-leaf verbena and skullcap with old-fashioned gladiolus. The following are a few of my favorite spring blooming native perennials.

Native Perennials for Sun to Part-shade, Well-drained Conditions

Baptisia species are long-lived, herbaceous perennials which come in shades of blue, yellow and white.

Beardtongue (*Penstemon tenuis* and *P. laxiflora*) grows well in South Louisiana. *P. tenuis* is purplish-lavender and *P. laxiflora* is light pink. They attract pollinators.

Coreopsis species are usually golden-yellow and can have double flowers. They are a must-have in the butterfly and pollinator garden.

Monarda species (including *M. fistulosa*, *M. didyma* and *M. citriodora*) are a good addition to the sustainable landscape. The lovely flowers which come in shades of pink, lavender, purple, white and red, attract butterflies and other pollinators. The leaves make a delicious tea.

Rubeckias, including giant coneflower (*Rudbeckia maxima*) and black-eyed Susan (*R. hirta* and *R. fulgida*) add bright gold flowers which attract native bees to the garden. Small songbirds eat the seeds of *R. maxima*.

Stiff-leaf verbena (*Verbena rigida*) is a tough, drought-resistant plant with purple flowers that will form attractive colonies.

Sneeze weed (*Helenium flexuosum*) does not make you sneeze, but it does add a blaze of gold to the flower border. Native pollinators are attracted to its colorful flowers.

Stokes aster (*Stokesia laevis*) is hardy and drought resistant. The blue flowers are a butterfly magnet.

Rough skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*) has bright blue clusters of flowers. The seed pods look like little skull caps.

Turk's cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*) has red flowers which attract hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators. This hardy herbaceous perennial will grow in sun or shade in wet or dry soil.

Violets (*Viola spp.*) abound in early spring with flowers in shades of purple, blue and white. The leaves and flowers are tasty and are filled with vitamins A and C.

Native Perennials for Sun to Part-shade, Moist to Wet Conditions

Milkweed including spider (*Asclepias viridis*) and common pink (*A. incarnata*) are host plants of monarch butterflies.

Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*) is a lovely addition to any flower garden. The clusters of bright red flowers with yellow throats are a favorite of hummingbirds and other pollinators.

Obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) attracts hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. The long-stemmed clusters of pink flowers are attractive around a pond.

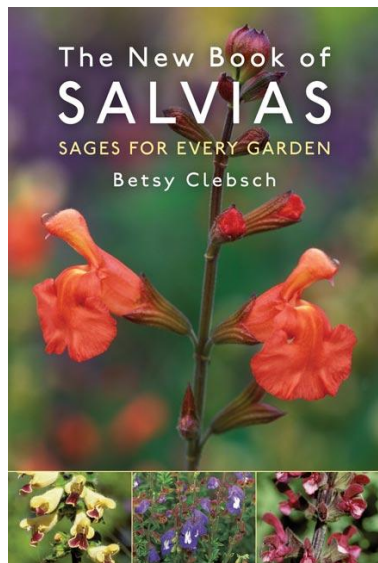
Louisiana iris (*Iris fulva*, *I. brevicaulis*, *I. giganticaerulea*, *I. nelsonii* and *I. hexagona*) as well as *Iris virginica* and their cultivars are used by hummingbirds, orioles, butterflies and other pollinators. Flower-color ranges from white to deep purple.

White spider lily (*Hymenocallis occidentalis*) has fragrant white flowers followed by fleshy seeds that sprout easily. The bulbs transplant well and last for years.

American crinum (*Crinum americanum*) can take some shade and will grow in drier conditions than spider lily. The blooms appear later, too.

Pickereel weed (*Pontederia cordata*) is a colorful and useful addition to the water garden. Its clusters of purple flowers attract hummingbirds and swallowtail butterflies.

Book Corner



A.J. heartily recommends the the **New Book of Salvias - Sages for Every Garden** by Betsy Clebsch to all native plant and/or wildlife garden enthusiasts. Many salvias are native to the United States and grow well here in southeastern Louisiana. *Salvia guaranitica*, *S. coccinea* and *S. leucantha* are primo hummingbird and butterfly plants. Common sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is a culinary herb. Clebsch's book is an excellent resource.

"Betsy documents approximately 150 beautiful, garden-worthy species alphabetically, and includes botanical descriptions, information on habit, blooming cycle, recommended companion plants, and delightful historical tidbits of discovery and usage."

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	☐
	Email	12.00	☐
Student	Mail	\$ 9.00	☐
	Email	6.00	☐

Name: _____

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

Folsom Native Plant Society Facebook Page –
<http://www.facebook.com/FolsomNativePlantSociety>

Statement of Purpose: The purpose of our group is to protect, perpetuate, and propagate the abundant native plants of 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 2014

President: A.J. Bailey
Vice President/Program Chairman: Kraig Stutes
Treasurer: David Scherer
Plant List Recorder: Yvonne Bordelon
Newsletter: Yvonne Bordelon yborde72@gmail.com
Publishers: Candyce & David Scherer
Hospitality Coordinator: Jenny Geesey
FNPS Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>) Yvonne Bordelon

Dates to Remember

May FNPS Meeting – May 18, 2014
Place: Gordon & Markey Barré, Tangipahoa Parish

See You in September, dates TBA

Fall 2014 Meeting Places:

September - Kraig Stutes in Mandeville
October - Walter Clifton in Abita Springs
November – A.J. Bailey near Bush

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