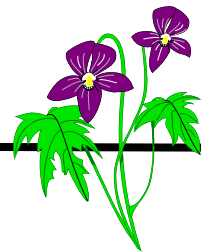


# Folsom Native Plant Society

[folsomnps.org](http://folsomnps.org)

May 2012



## *From the President's Corner*

Greetings to One and All,

The warm winter and cooler than usual spring has resulted in much flowering and fruiting in both natives and introduced plants. If we get regular rain, it looks like there will be a good crop of wild blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.), blackberries (*rubus*), wild plums (*Prunus*), southern crabapples (*Malus*), Mayhaws (*Crataegus*) and other Hawthornes, too. I'll be getting my jelly and jam making supplies out and I plan to make a lot.

Another thing I will be watching for this spring and summer are stands of my favorite native flowers. By monitoring large stands, you can collect 10% of the seed when the pods are ripe and at their prime. I hope everyone will do this, too.

Those of you with smart phones can enable the locator feature in your phone's camera and when you take a picture of the stand, it will record the location. It will be much easier to find the flowers again. Or if you want to remain off the grid, then just jot down the location.

Fall is the best time to plant wildflower and native plant seeds. If you want to start them in the ground, then you must prepare the soil ahead of time. I prefer to start seeds in good seed starting soil in flats or small pots. I transplant them to gardens and beds later.

Speaking of pots, Jim Russell asks that you bring any extra flower pots that you have to the meeting at his house on Sunday, May 20th. He especially needs very large pots, 3 gallon and larger.

We'll be off for the summer, so the May meeting will be the last one until September. But you can keep up with the FNPS and native plants on our new Facebook page. The url is: <http://www.facebook.com/FolsomNativePlantSociety> Once you "like" the page, you can post pictures and make comments. I plan to post photos throughout the seasons. So come check them out.

We'd like to have the meeting places for the Fall of 2012 already lined up, so please let us know if you'd like to host a meeting. Send an email to me at [fnpsinfo@aol.com](mailto:fnpsinfo@aol.com) or to Candyce and David or Nick or give one of us a call. So far we've seen several different types of terrain and a nice variety of native plants growing in each place that we have visited.

As usual, you can bring a little snack or covered dish if you desire. We're hoping for a big turnout at this last meeting before summer break. YLB

**Next Meeting Date: Sunday, May 20 at 1:00 p.m.**

**At the home of [Jim Russell](#), 61 Parc Place, Mandeville, LA 70471**

**From I-12, head south on LA-59 S 1.2 miles.**

**Turn right onto Sharp Rd at the red light. Drive down Sharp Rd for 1.5 miles.**

**Turn right onto Parc Pl for 0.3 miles. James lives at the end of the street.**

**This is the last FNPS meeting until September 2012**

# Gardening for Wildlife

The National Wildlife Federation ( <http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Garden-Month.aspx?campaignid=WH12D1ASXXX> ) has declared May as Gardening for Wildlife Month. For years NWF has promoted backyard wildlife habitats which help to replace the native plants and trees that are removed when a lot is cleared. Backyards and property all over the U.S. have joined in certifying their backyard habitat as a pledge to maintain the native flora and fauna.

To help the wildlife, your yard or property must provide the 4 basic needs; food, water, shelter and nesting sites. Native plants are the best way to provide food and shelter because they are hardy, low maintenance and the wildlife is familiar with the natives in an area. Water can be provided by something as simple as a birdbath or as large as a lake or river. Nesting sites can be man made boxes or natural cavities and/or shrubs and trees. Wild animals can help remove insect pests, eat weeds and their seeds and even help till the soil.

The Cottontails in my yard are reproducing like.... rabbits. We have several baby bunnies and their favorite place to dine is in the rain garden. The good thing is that I have seen them eating *Apois americana* (Ground Nut) vine. Thank you little rabbits, but you must eat faster.

Birds are great free pest controllers. A pair of Carolina Wrens built their nest in one of those "topsy turvey" super-duper tomato growers (not) that was hanging by the garden. While the babies were in the nest, I had no trouble with insect pests, but shortly after they fledged, the beet worms attacked in mass.

*Where to find more information about planting to attract and maintain wildlife.*

**Good Books About Gardening for Wildlife** Most can be found at the St. Tammany Public Library. I have the majority of these books in my personal library. All give very good information about gardening to attract and maintain wildlife.

Ajilvsgi, Geyata, Butterfly Gardening for the South

Day, Susan, Ron Rovanssek and Jack Griggs, The Wildlife Gardener's Guide to Hummingbirds and Songbirds from the Tropics

Miller, James H. & Karl V., Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses

Newfield, Nancy, Hummingbird Gardens: attracting nature's jewels to your backyard

Pope, T. E., Attracting Birds to Southern Gardens

Roth, Sally, Attracting Butterflies & Hummingbirds to Your Backyard

Roth, Sally, Bird-by-bird gardening: the ultimate guide to bringing in your favorite birds - year after year

Stokes, Donald, The Butterfly Book: an easy guide to butterfly gardening, identification and behavior

Tallamy, Douglas W., Bringing Nature Home: how native plants sustain wildlife in our gardens.

Thompson, Bill, Hummingbirds and Butterflies

**DVD's You Must See** (available at St. Tammany Parish Public Library)

Vanishing of the Bees, an award winning and entertaining documentary focusing on Colony Collapse Disorder

Audubon Butterfly DVD, essentials for beginners and gardeners

**Online Articles by Yvonne Bordelon aka Naturegirl7** include:

Butterflies and Gardening to Attract Them

([http://www.squidoo.com/naturally\\_native\\_butterfly\\_gardening](http://www.squidoo.com/naturally_native_butterfly_gardening))

Hummingbirds and Gardening for Them

([http://www.squidoo.com/naturally\\_native\\_hummingbird\\_gardening](http://www.squidoo.com/naturally_native_hummingbird_gardening))

Moon Gardens

(<http://www.squidoo.com/moon-gardens>)

Planting for Birds and Wildlife

([http://www.squidoo.com/plants\\_birds\\_wildlife](http://www.squidoo.com/plants_birds_wildlife))

Sustainable Gardening a la Rabbit Hill

([http://www.squidoo.com/naturally\\_native\\_gardening\\_rabbithill](http://www.squidoo.com/naturally_native_gardening_rabbithill))



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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, May 20,  
1 pm, at Jim's House,  
Mandeville  
(See Page 1 for Directions)

**No Summer meetings.**

Keep informed with  
our new Facebook page,

<https://www.facebook.com/FolsomNativePlantSociety>

### **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](mailto:nblady77@gmail.com)

**Publishers:** Candyce & David Scherer

**Hospitality Coordinator:** Candyce Scherer

**FNPS Website:** (<http://folsomnps.org>)

Yvonne Bordelon

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

### **April Mystery Plant**

You'll have to look down to see May's mystery plant. This 1-2 foot perennial grows in full sun to part shade in moist fields, meadows and pineland savannahs. The 4 petaled flowers range in color from pale to rich rose pink. The seed pod is shaped like a tiny urn. This delicate plant grows from a long, deep root.

If you know the genus of these lovely blooming perennials, then write it and your name on a slip of paper and put it into the mystery plant drawing at the next meeting.