

Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

September 2013



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, September 15, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Place: **A.J. Bailey's Home**, 82517 Owen Sharp Rd, Bush, LA 70431.

From the south, you take Hwy. 190 north to Hwy. 437. Turn right onto N. Lee Rd (Hwy. 437) for 7.2 miles. Turn right onto LA-40 E for 5.5 miles. Turn right on Owen Sharp Rd. Destination is first driveway on right.

From the President's Corner

Greetings to Everyone,

Where did the summer go? Here we are resuming club meetings again and already seeing fall flowers. The cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*) are blooming in my yard and some of the many species of sunflowers and elephant foot (*Elephantopus carolinianus* Raeusch), too. It's time to collect seeds from wildflowers that you want to propagate. Fall is the best time to get them in the ground (or in pots). With native plants you can leave them outside; in fact many need to be exposed to the seasonal change in temperature.

The fruit-bearing native plants did well this year, including wild plums, grapes (summer and muscadine), wild blueberry (*Vaccinium*) and elderberry. A red-bellied woodpecker is hanging from a cluster of ripe elderberries as I write.

On September 24, I'll be teaching a 3-hour class to the 2013 Master Gardener group. The title is "Care of Louisiana Natives", but it's also about sustainable landscaping, organic gardening, helpful insects and more. All Master Gardeners are welcome, just call the AgCenter office to let them know you want to attend.

A.J. and I have been busy writing articles for Louisiana Gardener magazine. One that you might find interesting is entitled "Need for Natives." It should appear in the October issue. Other earth friendly articles are in the works.

If you're looking for cultivars of beauty berry, *Callicarpa americana*, there is a new one called "Purple Pearls" which is featured on the cover of the 2013 Park Seed Fall Planting Book. Can I hear a "GEAUX TIGERS!"?

Because of family care issues, **Mizell's annual Butterfly and Hummingbird Festival** has been cancelled this year. *Yvonne L. Bordelon*

Environmental Alert!!!

A.J. and Joann and other Folsom residents have been battling the harmful practices of the WSTE (Washington St. Tammany Electric Coop). This company subcontracted another company which is destroying valuable native habitat by clear-cutting and spraying with defoliates. They even sent migrant workers (who claimed to speak no English) onto private, well-maintained property to spray a cocktail of herbicides (Element, 3-A, Arsenal, Rodeo and Milestone of unknown concentrations) and to cut small trees which had no effect on power lines. These workers even entered fenced yards to indiscriminately spray and/or cut everything they could.

WSTE does not have a do-not-spray list for concerned citizens. You can be put on a list if you have a doctor's notice saying you are allergic to these chemicals. However the subcontractors never receive these lists.

If anyone needs to register a complaint, call the State Dept. of Agriculture in Baton Rouge. The contact person there is Patricia. A.J. will give us more information at the upcoming meeting.

Genus of the Month - Lobelia

Click on the links to visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center site for photos and more information about each species.

Cardinal flower ([Lobelia cardinalis](#)) is probably the most well-known of the perennial lobelias. Its showy crimson flower clusters appear in late summer through fall and are used by butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators. This is the only red lobelia.

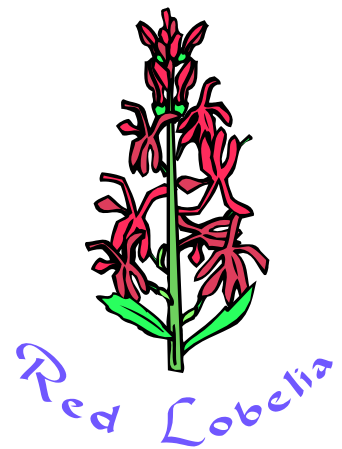
Great blue lobelia ([L. siphilitica](#)) is another showy perennial with clusters of bright blue flowers which bloom from late summer through fall. The nectar-rich flowers attract birds and hummingbirds. It was once thought to cure syphilis, hence the species name, siphilitica.

Downy lobelia ([L. puberula](#)) is a perennial with clusters of showy blue flowers which appear from summer through fall. It grows in swamps, meadows and open woods.

Indian tobacco ([L. inflata](#)) is an annual with blue to purple flower clusters which appear from summer through fall. It grows in a variety of soils, often poor. Its common name is derived from reports that Native Americans smoked and chewed its leaves, however, like other lobelias, it is considered toxic if consumed.

Pale-spike lobelia ([L. spicata](#)) is a perennial with lavender to blue flowers. This is a highly variable species with several varieties recognized by botanists.

Pale-lobelia ([L. appendiculata](#)) is on the National Wetland Indicator Plant List. This annual has clusters of showy white to pale blue flower clusters which appear in late spring.



Notes From Johnny Mayronne's Native Plant Talk on Aug. 21, 2013

St. Tammany Parish is one of the most biologically diverse parishes in the state with the largest number of rare plants. Vegetative types include marsh, cypress forests, pine flatwoods and longleaf pine forests.

Some Notable Native Species:

Pines (*Pinus*)- 5 species - *echinata*, *elliotti*, *glabra*, *palustris*, *taeda*.

Hawthorns (*Crataegus*) - 6 species - *bracyacantha flabellata* (fan leaf - rare), *marshallii*, *opaca*, *spathulata*, *viridis*.

Hibiscus - 6 species - *laevis*, *moscheutos*, *lasiocarpus*, *grandiflorus*, *aculeatus*, *coccineus*. (Also note: salt marsh mallow, *Kosteletzkya virginica* - pink and white forms.)

Cypress (*Taxodium*)- *ascendens* (only parish in Louisiana), *distichum*.

Magnolias - 3 species - *grandiflora*, *macrophylla*, *virginiana*.

Pitcher plants (*Sarracenia*) - 3 species - *alata*, *psittacina*, *purpurea*.

Prunus - 5 species - *angustifolia*, *caroliniana*, *mexicana*, *serotina*, *umbellata*

Lycopodium - 5 species

Snowbells (*Styrax*) - 2 species - *grandifolius*, *americanus*.

Myrica - 3 species - *cerifera*, *heterophylla*, *inodora*.

Rhododendron- 2 species - *canescens*, *serrulatum*.

Other unusual plants of interest:

Macranthera flammea - flame flower

Lilium catesbaei - Catesby lily, *Lilium michauxii* - Carolina lily

Stewartia malacodendron

Amelanchier arborea

Oxydendrum arboretum

Monarch and Viceroy Butterfly Identification



Monarch and Viceroy butterflies are difficult to tell apart. Here are some key points in distinguishing between the two species.

Wings

The color and pattern of the wings of a monarch and viceroy look almost identical, but there is a distinct difference. A viceroy has a black line crossing the postmedian hindwing.

Size

Viceroy is smaller than monarchs, although this difference is difficult to see in the field. The wingspan of a Viceroy is 2 1/2 - 3 3/8 inches (6.3 - 8.6 cm). While a Monarch measures 3 3/8 - 4 7/8 inches (8.6 - 12.4 cm).

Flight

The flight of a Viceroy is faster and more erratic. Monarchs float in a "flap, flap, glide" pattern.

Timing

Viceroy's do not migrate. They overwinter as tiny larvae, rolled up in a leaf of their host plant (willow or poplar). In the spring, the larvae need about 15 days to complete the life cycle and become a butterfly. They must develop through the remaining stages - approximately 5 days as a caterpillar and 10 days in the chrysalis stage.

You will not see an adult viceroy until about 15 days after willow or poplar leaves have emerged. Monarchs appear when milkweeds leaf out and during spring and fall migration.

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 2013

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

Dates to Remember

September FNPS Meeting – Sun., Sept. 15

Mizell's Butterfly Festival – Cancelled

October FNPS Meeting – Sun., Oct. 20 at 1:00 p.m. Place: Home of Jim Russell



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