

Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

September 2014



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Place: **Kraig Stutes Home**, 539 Albert, Mandeville, LA 70448

Directions: Get on I12 East. Take exit 65 toward Mandeville, merge onto LA-59 S. Turn left onto US-190 E/Florida St. 0.8 mi. Turn right onto Albert St. Destination will be on the left on the corner of Albert and Livingston. Please park on Livingston St. (See map below.)

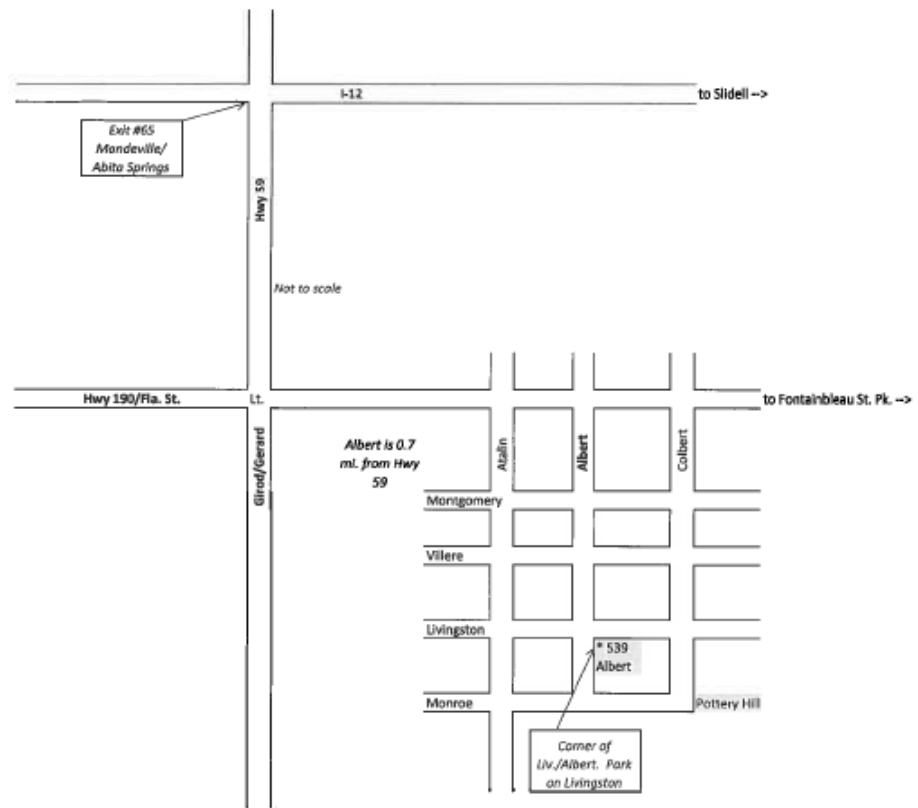
From the President's Corner

Hi Everyone,
Welcome back from summer vacation. I hope everyone enjoyed the cooler than average summer.

Please bring any plants that you need identified to the September meeting. We will be discussing summer and fall-blooming natives. We will also discuss topics for future meetings.

If you have any plants to share please bring them also. Check our website to see what wildflowers are blooming this month.

Our September meeting will be in Mandeville, at the home of Kraig Stutes. Kraig will lead a tour of the nearby archaeological site, Pottery Hill. Feel free to bring a covered side dish or dessert if you desire. We may need a few extra chairs, so if you have a folding chair that you could bring, please do so. Hope to see you at the meeting. Aj



Muscadine Grapes

Story and Photos by A.J. Bailey

Muscadines "*Vitis rotundifolia* Michx. muscadines', are falling in September. This year has produced a bumper crop due to the wet weather.



Muscadines are considered America's first grape. Vines can grow up trees 50 to 60 feet tall. The vines are used as cover by wildlife and the fruits are a favorite of most small mammals, birds, and larger mammals. The fruits are also a favorite of Southerners who make jelly, wine, juice, syrups and a number of other edibles out of the purple gems. They are found growing from Maryland to Texas.

The plants are well adapted to their native warm and humid climates. They thrive on summer heat. They are abundant in St Tammany Parish. I know when they are ready because the critters climb the oak tree on the back side of the house and all night long the grapes ping on the tin roof. They are a wonderful addition to any wildlife garden.

Yvonne says that another wild edible which is now blooming in the fields and forest is groundnut (*Apios Americana*). It has lovely wisteria-like flowers and edible potato-like roots.




The prolific vines grow along streams and in moist areas. The pea size seeds are also edible. For more information about groundnut download the informative USDA plant guide at:

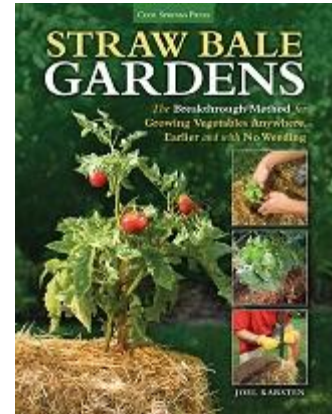
http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_apam.pdf

Book Corner

Straw Bale Gardens by Joel Karsten

As a native plant enthusiast, I find myself using many techniques and methods of sustainable gardening. Recently, I came across an informative new book called, Straw Bale Gardens. I plan to find some straw bales (not hay which has grass seeds) and set up an experimental vegetable and herb garden using this method.

According to the author, “If you've ever thought growing vegetables was difficult, time consuming, and hard on your knees and back, I will change your mind completely. My method eliminates weeding, and bending, making it so much easier. This method allows anyone, anywhere to grow a successful garden with a very small investment regardless of whether you even have soil in your yard at all.” 



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	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Email	12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	Mail	\$ 9.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Email	6.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____

Send to: 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

Fall 2014 Meeting Places:

September 21, 2014 - Kraig Stutes in Mandeville

October TBA - Walter Clifton in Abita Springs

November TBA – A.J. Bailey near Bush

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