

Folsom Native Plant Society

April 2005



Next Meeting Date:
Sunday, April 17, 2005 at 1:00 p.m
Plant Swap

*At the Home of John Larkin - 86419 Mockingbird Hill Road (north of Folsom) - phone number: 79
Directions to John's place: From Folsom, head north on Hwy. 25 for 4 1/2 miles (start your odometer at the
stoplight.) You will pass Jenkins Lumber. Turn left on Mocking Bird Hill Road (if you cross the little bridge
you've missed the turn.) Drive on Mocking Bird Hill Road for 4/10 of a mile, past the Blackwell Cemetery.
on the left.*



From the President's Corner

Spring has finally sprung from the yellow pollen of our pine trees to the rows of fleabane in fields and along road sides. Louisiana's native irises are beginning to grace us with their pleasing colors like that of the Southern-blue Flag (*Iris virginica*), Giant-blue Iris (*Iris giganticaerulea*), Zig-zag-stemmed Iris (*Iris brevicaulis*) as well as the stunning Copper-colored Iris or Red Iris (*Iris fulva*) and another member of the iris family - Blue-eyed-grass (*sisyrinchium capillare*). Also, although not a native iris, Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) adds much beauty to our Spring. Many of our native wild flowers are blooming now. For those of you who can, please bring two wild flowers and identify and/or discuss the conditions where yours grows.

We will take a poll at our next meeting to see how many favor changing our meeting time to 7:00pm which will require a new location as well. There will be 2 meetings (April and May) before the summer break. Meetings will resume again in September and go through November. Hopefully the Hospitality Committee will be able to get together over the summer break to organize our food preparation duties so that no one will have to bring food more than once a year.

April's gathering will be catered by Al & Yvonne Bordelon. When I asked Al what we were having, he said he was hoping to prepare squirrel Sauce Piquante. Woodrow traps & drowns grey squirrels in his yard and Al was waiting to get a dozen. However, thankfully I think, Woodrow went on vacation so Yvonne will prepare crawfish etouffe & a salad. Alliana Bosch will surprise us with a desert.

Until then, happy gardening as I look forward to seeing all of you on the 17th.

Thanks,

for John Larkin by AJB

March Meeting Highlights

Club members enjoyed a delicious meal of Lasagna, salad and various deserts provided by the Scherers, the Woodrow Morgans and John Larkin.

Woodrow Morgan donated 2 Emperor's Japanese cherry trees that were won by Rod Downie and Temae Theriot. Rod Downie provided several trees (including Cherry Bark Oak and May Haw) which were given as door prizes to various members.

Members brought many interesting plants for identification and study.

Temae Theriot :

- Bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*)
- Langois violets *Viola langlosii*)
- Red Chokeberry (*Pyrus arbutifolia*)
- Wood Sage (*Teucrium canadense*)

- o Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*)

Yvonne & Al Bordelon

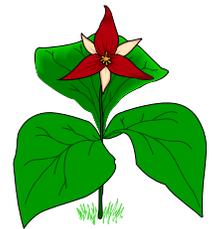
- o Parsley Hawthorne (*Crataegus Marshallii*)
- o Green Hawthorne (*Crataegus viridis*)
- o Service Berry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
- o Plum, wild? (*Prunus* spp.)
- o Wild Pink Azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*)
- o Huckleberry / Wild Blueberry (*Vaccinium ellottii*)
- o White star Anise (Japanese anise tree – non-native) (*Illicium anisatum*)

Alliana Bosch

- o Star Anise (*Illicium floridanum*)
- o Oxayllis, yellow (*O. stricta*) & pink (*O. rosea*)
- o False garlic (*Nothoscordum bivalve*)

John Larkin - Red Trillium (*Trillium sessile*)

Velma Signorelli – Non-native Indian Strawberry (*Duchesnea indica*)



Everyone was encouraged to bring native plants to swap at the April meeting.

FNPS Website

Emily Cantor Amthor and Yvonne Bordelon have set up a general framework for the FNPS website. Yvonne has compiled a list of the more showy local natives and is gathering digital photographs of these. Martin Morgan has agreed to help by providing copies of some of the wonderful articles that he has written. We need someone who was in the club in the early years to write up a short history of the club, including the founding members, the story of its creation and the date, etc. Anyone who would like to share digital photos or articles for the newsletter or website, e-mail them to Yvonne & Al at YLBordelon@aol.com.

FNPS Yahoo Group

In our search for links to put on the new website we discovered the FNPS Discussion Group on Yahoo. Martin Morgan set it up back in 2002 and it's easy to join. All you have to do is go to the group address on Yahoo: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FolsomNativePlantSociety/> and set up a free account by answering a few questions & selecting a Yahoo screen name & password. You don't even have to put your full name. You will be able to upload photos and files, too. If you have a question about a plant, you can ask other members online. The more members we have, the richer the information will be.

April Native Blooms

Our focus for the April meeting will be wildflowers. Bring examples of some to discuss and don't forget about the plant swap. The following are just a few of the beautiful natives that may bloom in April.

- Blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)
- Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus*)
- Florida Anise (*Illicium floridanum*)
- Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginica*)
- Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
- Leather-flower, Clematis (*Clematis crispa*) (late April)
- Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*)
- Spiderwort (*Tradescantia Virginia*)
- Spider-lily (*Hymenocallis caroliniana*, *H. occidentalis*)
- Tickseed Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
- Yellow Pitcher-plant (*Sarracenia alata*)
- Stokes' Aster (*Stokesia laevis*)

- Tuberous Hedge-nettle (*stachys floridana*) (invasive)
- Violets (*Viola* spp.)

Hummingbird Plants

- Native Azaleas (*Rhododendron canescens*)
- Coral Bean, Mamou (*Erythrina herbacea*)
- Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)
- Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*)
- Iris, Red (*Iris fulva*)
- Iris, Zig-zag-stemmed (*Iris brevicaulis*)
- Iris, Blue Flag (*I. virginica*)
- Silver Bell (*Halesia diptera*)

Native Gardening - The Right Plants for Our Climate

In a recent article called "Zone Defense for Gardeners", Dan Gill wrote:

One of the most important aspects of successful gardening is choosing plants that will thrive in our climate. ... We must begin thinking first about the big picture, making sure that the plants we choose will thrive based on:

- *The average annual rainfall – Here in Southeast LA rainfall is about 60 inches annually.*
- *How cold it is in the winter – Permanent structural plants must be able to withstand weather of about 15 degrees. Hardiness zone maps put Louisiana in zones 8 and 9.*
- *How hot it is in the summer – Our long, hot, humid summers primarily determine which trees, shrubs, groundcovers, turf grasses and perennials can grow here. The American Horticulture Society has addressed this issue by developing a plant heat-zone map. The zones are based on the average number of days per year that the temperature reaches 86 degrees or higher. The usefulness is clear when we see that Covington is in heat zone 9 (120 to 150 days) and Seattle is in heat zone 3 (seven to 14 days).*

So here's one more reason to use local native plants and heirloom varieties in your landscape. They can stand up to our extreme summer heat and humidity and have been proven to be the right plants for our climate.

From the Treasurer's Chest

It's time to pay your FNPS dues. Please complete the following and return with your check for either \$18.00 (if you wish to receive the newsletter by regular mail) or \$12.00 (if you wish to receive it by e-mail).

**Folsom Native Plant Society
Membership Renewal / Application**

_____ \$18.00 Mail

_____ \$12.00 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 2005

President: John Larkin

Vice President: David Campbell

Treasurer: David Scherer

Newsletter: Al & Yvonne Bordelon YLBordelon@aol.com

Hospitality Committee: Susan Donaldson (Chairman), Millicent (Jimmie) Canter & Lois Gagliano

New Member Mentor: Temae Theriot

FNSP Website: Emily Cantor Amthor & Yvonne Bordelon

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P.O. Box 1055

Folsom, LA 70437

Please note:

Next Meeting:

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1 P.M

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