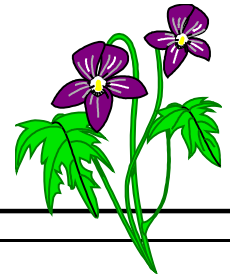


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

April, 2008



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, April 20, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

Linda Beall will give a wonderful presentation on **Native Plants that Attract and Sustain Butterflies**. A.J. says that we can bring food to our new meeting place -

At the Lee Road Branch Public Library -Address: 79213 Hwy 40, Covington, LA 70435 **Telephone:** (985) 893-6284 Hwy 190 north into Covington. At second red light past overpass turn right on Hwy 437 (Lee Road). Go 8 miles to an all-way stop at Hwy 40 and Lee Road. Proceed through stop. Branch is the first building on left after passing Lee Road Junior High School.

From the President's Corner

Salutations to All,

Ah....choo, the joys of spring in Southeastern Louisiana. I think it's safe to clean off the yellow Pine pollen and to sweep up the Oak tree tassels from your driveway and patio. The native Azaleas (*Rhododendron canescens* and *R. austrinum*) really put on a show. The native LA Irises, in a rainbow of colors, are blooming well, too. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are visiting the Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), Red Iris (*I. fulva*), Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*) and Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*).

The Northshore Plant Show at the Covington Fair Grounds was a smashing success! Not only was the Folsom Native Plant Society Booth a hit with high ratings by both the Master Gardeners and the patrons, but we signed up 51 new members and 4 old members renewed their membership. I'm not sure about the exact number, but the FNPS now has about 125 members, thanks to all the hard work of our dedicated members who continue to spread the good word about the importance of native plants in the grand scheme of things on our planet.

David and Candyce report that the Northlake Nature Center project wildflowers are beginning to bloom, but there are some "alien weeds". They weeded the walkway so that it will look nice for the Birdfest on April 12. Rod's tree / shrub project behind the wildflower garden is growing well.

We hope that many of you will attend our meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008 at the Lee Road Branch of the St. Tammany Public Library. We are looking forward to a wonderful program about **Native Plants that Attract and Sustain Butterflies**, by local hummingbird bander and FNPS member, Linda Beall. Insects are crucial to our survival and they can't survive without native plants. I want to urge everyone, but especially those who live in a subdivision, to plant as many native plants, trees and shrubs as your lot will hold.

Happy Earth Day! Keep up the good work and GO-O-O NATIVE PLANTS!

Yvonne Bordelon

“Nearly every creature on this planet owes its existence to plants, the only organisms capable of capturing the sun’s energy and, through photosynthesis, turning that energy into food for the rest of us.” ~ Douglas W. Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home, 2007.

April Native Blooms

Acer drummondii, [Swamp Red Maple \(seeds\)](#)
[Arisaema triphyllum](#), Jack-in-the-pulpit
Bidens aristosa, **Sticktight**
Bidens pilosa, **Shepherd's Needle**
Bignonia capreolata, Crossvine
Coreopsis lanceolata, Tickseed Coreopsis
Cornus florida, Flowering Dogwood
[Chaptalia tomentosa](#), **Sunbonnet**
Clematis crispa, Leather-flower, Clematis
Chionanthus virginica, Fringetree
Erigeron philadelphicus, Daisy Fleabane
Gelsemium sempervirens, **Carolina Jessamine**
Hymenocallis caroliniana, [H. occidentalis](#), Spider-lily
Ilex decidua, **Deciduous Holly** (flowers)
I. opaca, **American Holly** (flowers)
I. vomitoria, **Yaupon Holly** (flowers)
Illicium floridanum, **Florida Anise**
Iris brevicaulis (zig-zag-stemmed), [I. fulva \(Copper-colored\)](#), *I. giganteaerulea* (Giant-blue), [Iris virginica](#) ,
Southern Blue Flag
Liriodendron tulipifera, **Tulip Poplar**
[Lonicera sempervirens](#), **Coral Honeysuckle**
Mitchella repens, Patridge Berry
Nymphaea odorata, Water Lily, white
Sarracenia alata, Yellow Pitcher-plant

Prunella vulgaris, Self-heal
Oxallis rubra, *O. violacea* **Violet Wood Sorrel**, *O. stricta*
Yellow Wood Sorrel
Penstemon tenuis, **Sharpsepal Beardtongue & other**
Penstemon spp.
Phlox divaricata, **Blue Phlox**
Ranunculus fascicularis, **Early Buttercup**
Native Honeysuckle Azalea, [R. austrinum](#) , **Flame Azalea**
Salvia lyrata , **Lyre-leaved Sage**
[Sassafras albidum](#)
Senecio glabellus, **Yellow Top**
Sisyrinchium atlanticum, *S. capillare*, Blue eyed grass
[Spigelia marilandica](#), Indian Pink
Stachys floridana, Tuberous Hedge-nettle (invasive)
Stokesia laevis, Stokes' Aster
Taraxacum officinale, **Dandelion**
Taxodium distichum, **Bald Cypress**
Tradescantia Virginia, Spiderwort
[Trillium foetidissimum](#), **Mississippi Wake-robin (Red Trillium)**
Triodanis perfoliata, Venus' Looking-glass
Viola primulifolia, **White Violet**; *V. rosacea*,
Lavender/Purple Violet, [V. palmata](#), **Early Blue Violet**

The Latin Quarter

More word games to exercise the brain and keep the mind sharp. Most of these botanical names describe how the plant looks, so they give you good hints as to the common name. The prefixes and/or words fulva, papaver and leuc- are used in other botanical plant names so it's a good idea to remember them. See if you can guess the common names by reading the meaning of the botanical names below. The answers (the common names) can be found on page 3.

1. **Hymenocallis occidentalis** – *Hymen* = membrane + *kallos* = beauty; in allusion to membrane uniting stamens. *Occidentalis* = western.
 2. **Iris fulva** - *Iris* = named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow. *fulva* = tawny-orange; fulvous.
 3. **Callirhoe papaver** - *Calli* = beautiful + *rhoe* = mallow *papaver* = Poppy-like.
 4. **Symplocos tinctoria** - *Symplocos* = combination. The stamens are variously united. *Tinctoria* = used in dyeing, *tinctus* = coloured.
 5. **Baptisia leucantha** - *Baptisia* = Wild Indigo of North America *leucantha* = white flowered.
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March Meeting Highlights



After John read our purpose, we welcomed three new members; Nick Blady, Cathy Reams and Laura Robert.

The answer to our mystery plant question was LA Phlox, *Phlox divaricata*, which Nick identified correctly. He was the winner of our door prize which was a check to use at a store of his choice.

Sparkman and David S. will go check on the wildflowers at the Nature Center sometime before the Birdfest on the weekend of April 11th.

The FNPS donated plants and seeds to a School Garden at Mandeville Trace Elementary which features Louisiana native plants.

Linda Beall will give a presentation at the next meeting which will be held at the Lee Road Branch of the Public Library on Sunday, April 20 at 1:00 p.m.

Then the Plant Swap began.

Plant Swap Plants:

David S. – Silver Bell

Barbara – Texas Star Hibiscus

Long leaf pine

Itea virginica

Sweet Pecan

Iris brevicaulis

A.J. – Coreopsis tinctoria

White Wood Violets

Sassafras

Wahoo

Huckleberry

Fern

Yellow Fruited Crabapple

Special Grass (Jim R. help, please)

Sparkman – Cow Oaks

Heirloom Roses

Marion – Violet

Big Blue Lobelia

Ruellia caroliniensis



Yvonne & Al & Show Leftovers

Black Gum

Viburnum ovatum

Black Cherry

Hibiscus Moscheutos

Hibiscus coccineus

St. John's Wort

Witch Hazel



Answers to Latin Quarter

1. *Hymenocallis occidentalis*
– White Spider-lily
2. *Iris fulva* – Copper-colored Iris, Red Iris
3. *Callirhoe papaver* – Poppy-mallow
4. *Symplocos tinctoria* – Horse Sugar
5. *Baptisia leucantha* – White Indigo

Book Review and Commentary – Bringing Nature Home By Yvonne Bordelon

Douglas W. Tallamy has written a book that every person in the United States should read. The title of this insightful book is **Bringing Nature Home How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens**, Timber Press, 2007. Professor of Entomology, Tallamy, continues the work of the great Edward O. Wilson by detailing the importance of the relationship between native plants and insects in the cycle of life on planet Earth. Wilson enlightened us many years ago, as to the importance of insects in the whole scheme of things with his infamous quote:

“If humans were to disappear, the effects on the insect world would be minimal. It's unlikely a single insect species would go extinct except three forms of body and head lice. (Close relatives of the parasites could still live on gorillas.) The complex web of life would continue "minus all the species we have pushed into extinction." But if insects were to disappear, Wilson speaks of "an ecological dark age" where "the survivors would offer prayers for the return of weeds and bugs."

Now Douglas Tallamy gives us a possible solution to the ever spiraling path to destruction of the food chain that our society is moving towards, as subdivision after subdivision bulldozes our precious and crucial native plants only to replant them with inedible, unsuitable and hard to grow alien plants. According to Tallamy, “If we want to create ecosystems with diversity of animal species, we first have to encourage a healthy diversity of plants.... I can not over emphasize how important insect herbivores are to the health of all terrestrial ecosystems.” Typical subdivision monocultures of exotic turf grass, box hedges, lollipop trees and a few annuals from the big chain store will not provide food and shelter for the most important of the layers of the food chain, the Insects.

He goes on to say, “Because it is we who decide what plants will grow in our gardens, the responsibility for our nation's biodiversity lies largely with us.” While many people talk about the good old days, when a kid could go outside and catch a whole jar full of Lightning Bugs in a few minutes and they mourn the loss of the birds and butterflies they continue to cut down the native trees, shrubs and wildflowers that support these wondrous creatures, only to replace them with alien species that are usually not suitable for our climate or our wildlife.

According to Tallamy, “We need to restore the ecological integrity of suburbia in order to prevent the extinction of most of our plants and animals.” The news media continues to talk about the destruction of the rain forests, and this is something that we should be concerned about. However, it is interesting to note that only 15% of the Amazonian forests have been logged, where here in the U.S. 70% of the forests along the Eastern Seaboard are gone. What we have done as a nation is fragmented suitable habitat where wildlife can thrive, thus forming habitat islands. Science has shown that habitat islands have high rates of species extinction.

Along with these problems come, what he considers the number one problem for biodiversity, paving with impervious surfaces. The second most serious blow against biodiversity is our love affair with sterile lawns. All over the world, 12% of bird species are being threatened with extinction due to habitat loss. We have taken their homes, their food and filled the world with dangerous obstacles like highways and high rise buildings filled with glass windows, to mention a few.

But Tallamy says that all is not lost if we act NOW, before masses of species are extinct. Humans can live in harmony with a variety of plant and animal species and must start to design living spaces that will accommodate both humans and wildlife in a functioning sustainable ecosystem that supports biodiversity.

Because humans have already impacted nature on almost every place on the planet, we must discard the idea of “pristine nature” and go forth with a program of “reconciliation ecology” (Michael Rosenzweig, 2003) to redesign human habitats to accommodate other species. By replacing exotic turf lawns and alien plants with food producing, insect / wildlife friendly native plants in our suburban yards we can take a giant step towards preventing the catastrophic blow to our food supply that the failure of animal pollinated fruits and vegetables would cause.

Bringing Nature Home contains several excellent chapters that guide the reader through the process of replacing alien species with native plants including, Creating Balanced Communities, Gardening for Insect

Diversity and What Should I Plant? But my favorite chapter is, What Does Bird Food Look Like? This contains beautiful, color photographs with descriptions of many of the important insects that are vital to bird survival. Appendices include: Native Plants with Wildlife Value and Desirable Landscaping Attributes, Host Plants of Butterflies and Showy Moths and Experimental Evidence.

Even though the book is written from a “northern” perspective, some southern flora and fauna are also covered. The message of this book can not be ignored. We must act now to save the insects and to save the Earth.

Guess the Mystery Plant and your name will go into the Door Prize Drawing.

This deciduous large shrub or small tree is a hummingbird favorite. It's palmately compound leaves have 5 leaflets. The terminal flower cluster is 6 to 10 inches long with dark red tubular flowers. Blooms appear from March to May. It is common along streams in the hilly areas. If you know the answer, write the name of the plant and your name on a slip of paper at the April meeting to be eligible for the door prize drawing.

Membership Renewal Information

New members who joined from September to December 2007, are paid up for 2008. For everyone else, the 2008 renewals were due in January.

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

It's time to pay your FNPS dues. Please complete the following and return with your check for either \$18.00 per family (if you wish to receive the newsletter by regular mail) or \$12.00 per family (if you wish to receive it by e-mail). Special student rates are available: \$9.00 for the printed newsletter & \$6.00 for the email version.

Regular Membership
_____ \$18.00 Mail

Student School Name: _____
_____ \$9.00 Mail

_____ \$12.00 e-mail

_____ \$6.00 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 2008

President Emeritus: John Larkin
President: Yvonne Bordelon
Program Chairman: Rod Downie
Treasurer: David Scherer
Plant Recording Committee Chairman: A.J. Bailey
Business Recorder: Al Bordelon
Newsletter: Al & Yvonne Bordelon
ylbordelon@bellsouth.net **Publishers:** Candyce & David Scherer
Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer
New Member Mentor: Temae Theriot
FNSP Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>) Emily Canter & Yvonne Bordelon

Dates to Remember

April 10-13, 2008 - 18th annual BBB to be held in the Fort Polk area. Contact Charles Allen (www.lnps.org)

April 20, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. – FNPS Meeting at the Lee Road Branch Public Library

May 18, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. – Tentative date for May FNPS meeting.

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

Please note:
Next Meeting:
Sunday, April 20, 2008
1:00 P.M
At the Lee Road Branch of the Public Library