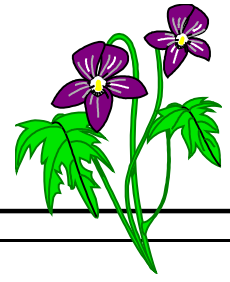


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

April, 2009



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

The Lee Road Branch Public Library 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.

Program: Bring show and tell plants or plants that need identifying or ones to share. We may have a treat if Mary Ann McClellan agrees to give a talk about the native herb garden that she and others are designing at Northlake Nature Center.

From the President's Corner

A big hello from me to all of you, new members, current members, and those who still have to pay their 2009 dues - like me.

First, I would like to welcome all the new members to the group. I hope to meet you seen at meetings and get to know you better. Please be patient with me as I can't remember both names and faces very well, just like I am getting to the point of knowing possible either the Latin name or one of the common names for a plant, but usually not both anymore. Even the newest member has more to contribute than you can realize.

A great round of applause for all of you who contributed time, energy, plants, enthusiasm, smiles, seeds, and your love of native plants to make our booth at the Covington Master Gardener Spring Show March 21 - 22 a great success. We recruited 45 new members, gave away hundreds of seed packs to those who signed a list for a plant giveaway every half-hour, and gave new members three new plants each. A special standing ovation goes to Yvonne and Al Bordelon for being the elixir of life to the booth in their organization, extra time, watering the plants we potted, and generally being good people. The many volunteers who also assisted cannot be thanked enough.

What was especially encouraging was the continued question all weekend, "Do you know who is selling native rhododendrons?". We were asked this constantly, and other questions in a similar vein all the way from large trees to understory shrubs to grasses and forbs. The best way to encourage propagation and use of anything is to develop a market, and it sounds as if the market for native plants is growing. People also asked about the best place to put a given plant, propagation methods, what would work for wildlife, and how to use sound gardening techniques to minimize work, water, and chemicals. Composting and recycling comments came up a lot, also.

Several vendors sold native plants, although none exclusively. Jim Mizell of Folsom sold a lot of native plants all the way from trees to shrubs to forbs. He also had some really pretty varieties of native plants such as coreopsis. Passion flowers, ferns, and rudbeckias were sold by

Mary Elliott of Fronderosa in Ponchatoula. Someone sold milkweeds but I lost my notes to give them credit. If someone knows, please drop me a line so I can publicly acknowledge them and all those who provided to the cause.

If you have any comments, questions, suggestions, or whatever, my home phone is 626-4363, my cell is 502-4364, and work number is 902-5052. The area code for all three is 985 unless you have a complaint, then it is any three random numbers. The time I can spend talking at work is very limited, however. I am the clinical psychologist for the Vets Affairs clinic in Hammond. My wife, Sheila, is the VA psychologist at the Slidell clinic. Being blessed with an unknown spinal cerebellar neurological problem and middle age, I no longer can fly kites, if that should be your suggestion. For those who don't know me, I am married with five children two of whom are grown, and with three grandchildren who live in Juneau Alaska because their dad is a Coastie mustang. Our second oldest has just become engaged. Being from New Orleans, I sometimes use words and references of the various dialects of the area. I have a tongue-in-cheek sense of humor. As God is my witness, you don't want to hear me sing. I live just north of the Mandeville limits off Sharp Road between US 190 and Highway 59. My house backs onto the as yet undeveloped area owned by the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans roughly north of Sharp Road, south of Dove Park, west of Tammany Trace, and East of West Wood. If you should see a middle-aged, over weight guy with glasses and gray hair, with a yellow back pack, shovel, hand shears, and GPS, wearing a bandana, and likely tromping in knee boots, please don't shoot or sic the dogs because, mon cher, it done jes' be me. My e-mail address is swamprabbit8b@yahoo.com.



NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 1:00 at the Lee Branch Library. One of our members works there and has some dirt on the administrators so we can meet there despite our having been banned in most places of polite society and names as off-limits by the Military Police.

This den of inequity is located at 79213 Hwy 40, Covington, 70435 (985) 893-6284. Take Hwy 190 north from southern Covington/Mandeville, go over the overpass. Turn right at the second traffic light past the overpass at Lee Road/Hwy 437. Drive about eight miles; you will come upon an all-way stop sign. Go straight at the stop sign but remember to stop first. Don't let the excitement of attending a meeting get in the way of your better judgment and impulse control. The library is about a block or so past the stop sign, on the left, the second building past Lee Road Junior High.

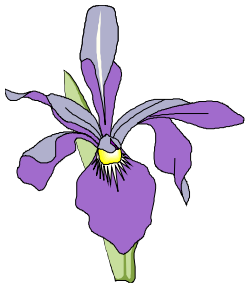
If you want, bring some goodies to share with the group. We are not finicky or formal. We eat anything. Should you have some extras by way of seedlings, cuttings, or seeds to show and swap/give out, that would be wonderful. Also of interest are any flowers, leaves, pictures for identification. Bring your questions and smiles.

Dave Scherer has the idea of having Mary Ann McClellan present her information on native herbs. Hopefully, that will be able to happen. Dave also provided another idea - pass out cards at the meeting. Members will write about their favorite native plant, worst weed / least favorite exotic plant, and the like. Every newsletter we will take out a couple of cards and publish what others said.



Those at the meeting who have more experience will be more than happy to discuss any questions the others may have. Some of the more memorable meetings have focused on these presentations. But the more "stuff" members bring in, the better the meeting will be.

There are several books that should be in every native gardener of Louisiana and adjacent states. The first is the Clair Brown book mentioned just above. Out of print, it sometimes can be found on the internet. "Gardening with Native Plants of the South" by Sally Wasowksi with Andy Wasowksi is another. Go to our website www.folsomnps.org for more suggestions and information.

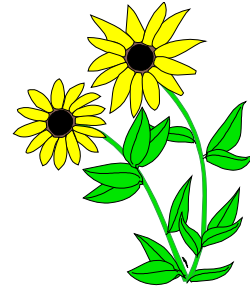


Tips on Raising Native Plants

Find out what you can on where a particular plant is found in the wild and try to duplicate those conditions as far as you can without going crazy about it. Most plants are somewhat forgiving as long as you are reasonable. Of course, there are some that almost nobody can propagate or raise, such as the Wild or Silky Camellia, *Stewartia malacodendron*. Some grew great but only if completely happy. Wet area plants generally can live in drier areas better than dry area plants can tolerate wet soils. Under wet land conditions, often a matter of a couple of inches often means the difference between thriving and dying. Go into the woods, fields, sloughs, swamps and marshes, hillsides and river banks, and learn. Don't be discouraged and get creative. If you live in a wet, flat area like I do, mounding up is the way to go to keep roots from rotting in the winter. Prepare for the heat. Although officially we live in southern 8b USDA climate zone, I prefer to think we live in 8b in the winter, meaning more frost and freezes than on the south shore. However, we live in zone 9 in the summer, meaning we get hot and stay hot for a very long time. Native plants tend to resent being over fertilized. They take a year or two to establish their root systems, and then they start to show more growth where we can see it.

Plant things that tend to grow together in the wild or under the same conditions. Mulch like crazy and use native materials such as pine straw or grass clippings, or shredded newspaper with coffee grinds and vegetable parts. Bury what is left over from seafood boils and fish prepping into the ground to avoid attracting unwanted critters. Don't use cypress mulch as this is a murderous waste of one of our best trees and one that is necessary for native plant areas

across the south. Think of plantings that are naturally sustainable with little use for water, rare use of chemicals, and balance up and down the ecosystem or econiche. Don't confuse going native with simply not mowing your yard. Be considerate of your neighbors, local covenants, and local laws. It is your area - enjoy it but remember we are not owners of the world, we are the stewards who must answer to the true owner, or at least answer to Mother Nature. And have fun.



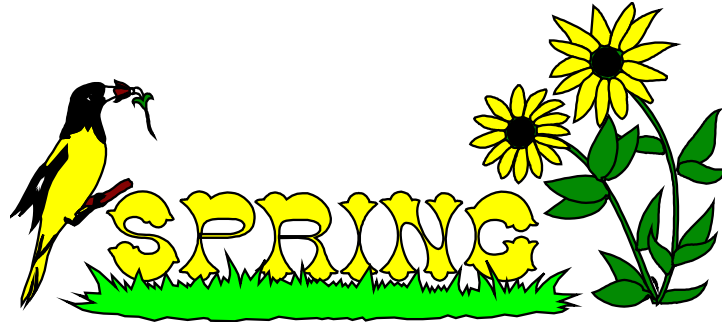
April Native Blooms

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**

Mystery Plant

Guess who I am and enter into a drawing for a free plant! I can be a largish shrub to about 15 feet. I have leaves that are alternate, compound with lots of oblong to oval leaflets. My flower clusters are full of tiny flowers that are dark purple with golden stamens. I tend to grow along low streams and low wet woods from April to June. My seeds are in pods. Clair Brown describes me in his book "Wildflowers of Louisiana and Adjoining States".



Membership Renewal Information

New members who joined from September to December 2008, are paid up for 2009. For everyone else, the 2009 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 2009

President Emeritus: John Larkin

President: Jim Russell swamprabbit8b@yahoo.com

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

Newsletter Distributors: Candyce & David Scherer

Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer

New Member Mentor: Temae Theriot

FNPS Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>) Emily Canter & Yvonne Bordelon

Dates to Remember

Sunday, April 19, 2009 at Lee Road Library – FNPS Meeting

April 22, 2009 is Earth Day – celebrate by planting a native plant, shrub or tree.

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P.O. Box 1055

Folsom, LA 70437

Please note:

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Sunday, April 19, 2009

1:00 P.M

At: **The Lee Road Branch Public Library**