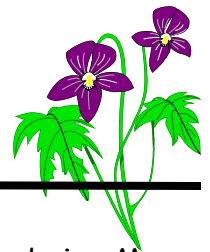


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

April 2011



From the President's Corner

Hi Everyone. This month has come and gone and it is time for the April showers to bring May flowers. At our last meeting, we had a show and tell on violets by Yvonne and a What's Happening in the yard by Rod. We all enjoyed the potluck lunch and we kept the meeting to 2 hours. We hope to continue this schedule. April, we will meet at Walter Clifton's. Nick will have a map and directions. This will be a working meeting. Walter will grill chicken and we will bring the side dishes. Also if you can bring a butterfly or hummingbird plant to install in the Clifton's garden it would be appreciated. Bring your binoculars also for some bird watching. We will tour the yard and identify the many native plants blooming and not blooming. I would like to do a discussion and show and tell on the mint family. Prunella, lyreleaf sage, mountain mint, lanceleaf sage, and henbit are just a few examples of the ones blooming now. Please bring your blooming mints to the meeting so that everyone will be able to identify these beauties in their own yards. Thanks and I hope to see you at the Cliftons.

Aj

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

This member of the mint family is a native perennial that can be found in moist habitats. Hummingbirds drink the nectar from its pale pink, long flower clusters. When the stems of this 36-40 inch plant are bent, they stay that way. 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.

Our Board for 2011

President: A.J. Bailey

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

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

Dates to Remember

April FNPS Meeting – Sunday, April 17,
1 pm, at Walter Clifton's Home

May FNPS Meeting - Sunday, May 22,
1 pm, at Lee Road Library

No meetings in June, July & August

Hummingbird Festival

Sep 10, Misells in Folsom, LA

Sep FNPS Meeting - Sunday, Sep 18,
1 pm, at Abita Springs Library

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, April 17, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

***At the long-time home of Walter & Olga Clifton, **Hummer's Haven**,
[22315 Main St](http://22315MainSt.com), Abita Springs, LA 70420 (985) 892-1468***

***From the circle in the middle of Abita Springs, you take Hwy. 59 north.
One block at Main Street (Hwy 735), turn right. Go 5 blocks to 22315 Main
Street, corner of Pine Street. Or from the circle, you take Level St. 6 blocks
to Pine St. and turn right. Hummer's Haven is across Main St.***

IDENTIFYING LOUISIANA VIOLETS

(Continued from March 2011 Issue)

II. Purple Stemmed Uncut:

Viola rostrata - "Long Spurred Violet"

Name: from Latin *rostratus* —'having a beak, curved.'

Further identification: The flower has a spur, half an inch long, making it unmistakable for any other violet. The spur may be curved or straight. The basal leaves are more rounded, whereas the stemmed leaves get increasingly pointed as they near the terminal. The stems may be 6-8 inches long.



Viola walteri - "Walter's Violet" "Southern Prostrate Violet" "Running Violet"

Name: named for Thomas Walter (ca. 1740-1788), an early Southern botanist.

Further identification: The small leaves have very tiny white hairs that give them a silvery appearance, and are almost round, with cordate bases. The flowers are small, and

bloom in profusion.

Notes: Spreads by runners, and carpets the ground in favorable locations.

Viola tricolor - "Johnny Jump-up" "Pansy violet"

Name: from Latin *tres* 'three' and *color* 'color'

Further identification: Despite its name, *V. tricolor* can also be bicolored or a single tone. A sure mark is the pectinate (comb-like) stipules, i.e. the appendage at the base of the petiole.

Notes: *V. tricolor* will hybridize with other violets in the area. More like a tiny pansy than a violet, *V. tricolor* is not a native, but a European species that escaped cultivation.

Synonyms: *V. rafinesquii* (Dormon)

III. Purple Stemless Cut:

Viola pedata - "Birdfoot Violet" "Crowfoot Violet" "Pansy Violet"

Name: from Latin *pedis* —'foot,' as its deeply cut leaves suggested a bird's foot to Linnaeus.

Further identification: The largest of our Louisiana violets. The leaves are divided into narrow fingerlike lobes. The flowers vary in color from light violet to dark purple, less commonly bicolored with the upper petals a deep violet, and the lower petals lighter (the variety known as "Pansy Violet"). The flowers have a yellow eye, with conspicuous orange anthers. *V. pedata* grows from 4 to 10 inches high. Ms. Dormon notes: "Unlike many violets, *V. pedata*'s flowers turn their faces to the sky, the better displaying the beauty."

Notes: Widely distributed in Louisiana pineland soils.

Viola palmata - "Palmate Violet" "Three-lobed Violet"

Name: from Latin *palma* — 'palm (as of the hand or the palm branch),' referring to its palmate leaves.

Further identification: The deeply cut leaves are hairy on the undersurface and petioles, but southern varieties may be smooth. The early (winter) leaves are undivided, but the spring leaves appearing with the flowers are divided into three lobes, and may be further divided into five to eleven lobes. The flowers overtop the leaves, and generally have white heavily bearded centers. When the blooming season is over, the leaves become very large, sometimes three inches long *V. palmata* grows about 4 to 6 inches high

Notes: All violets are edible, but *V. palmata* is reputed to be the most palatable.

Synonyms: *V. triloba* var. *dilatata* (Dormon)

Viola septemloba - "Southern Coastal Violet"

Name: from Latin *septem* — 'seven' and Greek lobo * 'lobe'

Further identification: Despite its name, *V. septemloba* doesn't always show seven lobes. Basal leaves are cordate, and other leaves range from undivided to deeply cut. Look for a prominent central lobe with lower lobes pointing downward.

IV. White Stemless Uncut:

Viola primulifolia - "Primrose-leaved Violet"

Name: from Medieval Latin *prima rosa* — 'first rose,' i.e. primrose, hence the genus *Primula*, and Latin *folium* — 'leaf,' as its leaves resemble those of the primrose.

Further identification: Very variable in form. The leaves are smooth, but may be pubescent in the South, and frequently show some red on the back and in the veins. The petioles may be winged. Pedicels and petioles are rose-colored near the ground. The flowers have a green pistil and orange stamens, with their middle lower petal marked with purplish veins.

Notes: Common and widely distributed in wet sites in both pine and hardwood areas. *V. primulifolia* has a long blooming season, from late February to May.

Viola lanceolat — "Bog white violet""Lance Leaf Violet"

Name: from Latin *lancea* — 'lance,' for the leaf shape.

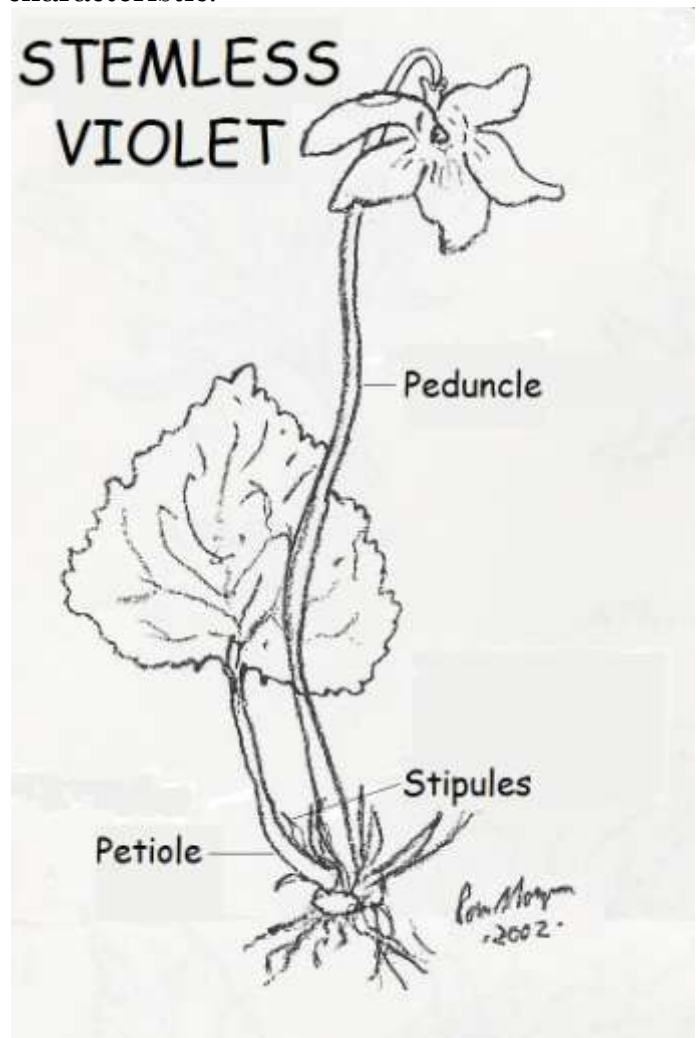
Further identification: The narrow, slightly toothed, glabrous (hairless) leaves taper at both ends, with the lower end extending into margined petioles. The white flowers have purple lines and are beardless.

V. White Stemmed Uncut:

Viola bicolor - "Wild Pansy"

Name: from Latin *bini* 'twofold' and color — 'color.'

Further identification: The flowers vary in color, from white with a tinge of purple to pale purple with a white center. The leaves are almost entire. The pectinate stipules are characteristic.



VI. Yellow Stemmed Uncut:

Viola pubescens - "Downy Yellow Violet"

Name: from Latin *pubesco* —'to arrive at maturity, esp. the growth of hair.'

Further identification: Can reach 12 inches in height, often much shorter. Leaves are generally cordate. If you see a yellow violet in Louisiana, it's most likely *V. pubescens*. If it's not, contact the nearest authority to have your botanical sleuthing rewarded. The lower petal has brown markings near its base.

Notes: A widespread species with many variations. Most Southern yellow violets are in the mountain districts. Dr. Russell says to look for *V. pubescens* in northern Louisiana.

¹Caroline Dormon, [Wild Flowers of Louisiana and How to Know Them.](#)

²Claire Brown, [Wild Flowers of Louisiana.](#)

³Greene/Bloomquist, [Flowers of the South.](#) UNC Press, 1953.

⁴D.J. Mabberley, [The Plant Book,](#) Cambridge U. Press, 1997. *Hybanthus concolor* is listed in Timme.

⁵Dr. Norman Russell, "Keys to Louisiana Violets", Southwestern Naturalist 6:184-186.

⁶ The authority used as the final word on species was the Integrated Taxonomic Information System, on the internet at [www.itis.gov/.](http://www.itis.gov/)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part two of a reprint from the FNPS newsletter of March 2002. Martin Morgan is the author and Pam Morgan, his wife did the illustrations. The article began in the March 2001 next newsletter. Thanks for their consent to reprint it here.

Northshore Plant Show

A FEW OF THE FNPS WORKER BEES:
David Scherer, Margaret Breaud, Yvonne
Bordelon (inset) and Dot Wood



Well, the Spring Plant Show just wrapped up last month, and it was a wonderful event. We are into the gorgeous heart of spring, and the weather was perfect. People were relaxed, happy and having a great time - must be the result of being surrounded by so many beautiful plants. We are excited to have several new members who signed up at the show, and it is always great to see our renewing members come by the booth for a chat. I can't say enough about the FNPS booth volunteers. They all did a stellar job

representing our organization, and some even volunteered for more than one shift (our super stars.)

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Candyce & David Scherer